

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On August 2, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. MARCO GOLDSTEIN, a son, Lazareth.
On August 3rd, Shanghai, at "Ennerdale," to Mr. and Mrs. A. R. FULLERTON, a daughter.
On August 7th, at Stokes, Bungalow, The Peak, the wife of J. FINLAY MILLER, of a son.

DEATHS.

H. MARSHALL MAZE, late Acting Commissioner of Customs at Szemao, at Hanoi, of fever, on the 29th May.
On August 1, at Shanghai, ERNEST LESLIE, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. KIMPTON, aged 10 months.
On August 2, at Shanghai, EDWARD GOULDING, only son of E. G. WILSON, aged 13 years and 6 months.
On August 3, at Shanghai, JOHN STANISLAUS, the son of FRANCIS and LILLIE ELLIS, aged 11 months.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 15th July arrived per N. D. L. s.s. *Derflinger* on the 12th inst.
The French Mail of the 17th July arrived per M. M. s.s. *Australien* to-day the 17th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

At Mashan, northwest of Tsimehsien, Shantung, a gold mine has, according to a native journal, been discovered and a German mining expert is trying to operate the mine.

Mr. Bonheure, Acting Governor General of Indo-China, who in view of the troubles has been making a prolonged sojourn at Hanoi, returned to Saigon last week.

The Cantonese merchants of Hankow have added handsomely to the previous remittances sent to relieve the sufferers from the flood in the South, the total sum now reaching thirty thousand taels.

It is rumoured that the China Merchants S. N. Co. intend to put a steamer on the Hankow-Changsha run. At present there are five steamers running regularly every week—three British and two Japanese.

Large quantities of arms are said to be now reaching the Hunghuizes in Mongolia. They are said to be smuggled over the Russian frontier. The rifles and pistols are described as of German and Japanese manufacture.

Mr. Philip Reinsdorff, Consul for Germany in Formosa, has been appointed German Consul for Vladivostock. He is on his way to his new post. The German Government has closed up the Consulate in Formosa.

The Emperor of Korea has had two bad teeth extracted by a Japanese dentist. This is the first surgical operation ever performed on the person of a Korean potentate and it is said to have caused something like a panic in the Palace.

The last two foreigners in the Korean Customs Service have been discharged by the Japanese authorities and have joined the I. M. C. service at a lower rating. The staff, with the exception of a few Korean clerks, now consists entirely of Japanese.

Capt. Ipland, who is a well known figure on the China Coast, has lately been decorated by H. M. the Kaiser with the Crown Order of the III class. Captain Ipland was for several years the skipper the "Apenrode" which was wrecked off Stonecutters in the 1906 typhoon.

The Central Government proposes to have all of China's currency made in the Government Mint in Tientsin and of one pattern, in place of the variety at present existing owing to the separate Provincial coinings. The proposal is still under consideration.

A special conference has been held in Peking to consider the reduction of telegraph rates. Various proposals have been brought forward, but the one said to have been accepted by H. E. Chen Pi is that the rates shall be reduced by 30 per cent. It is probable that this reduction will take place at an early date.

News has reached Manila that Bishop Brent adheres to his decision to refuse the See of Washington and will be back in Manila by November 1st. Bishop Brent has been appointed civil United States Commissioner on the International Opium Commission which will inquire into the Opium Question in January next at Shanghai. The Bishop has recently undergone at Boston a successful operation for a nasal affection.

The Grand Hotel Limited, of Yokohama pays a dividend of 4 yen per share for the past half year.

Bangkok proposes to erect a statue to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the accession of the King of Siam.

In the spring next year an Imperial wedding will take place in Tokyo between H. I. H. Princess Kane, daughter of the Emperor, and H. I. H. Prince Naribisa, the second son of the late General Prince Kitashirakawa. The bride is 18 years of age and the bridegroom 22.

Russian naval officers have subscribed for a wreath of silver flowers to be hung on the monument to the Japanese dead at Port Arthur. The wreath is said to be 3 ft. by 2½ ft. and to be beautifully chiselled. It bears the inscription "From the Russians to the brave men of the Japanese Navy who fell at Port Arthur."

It is very difficult to get reliable news about the health of the Emperor, says the "China Times," but as a result of inquiries in official circles, it is learnt that there is nothing seriously wrong with his Majesty's health. Every year the Emperor is a little out of sorts during the hot weather. The present year furnishes no exception.

Chinese boycotting has just asserted itself strongly at Bandong in East Java in connection with a European firm engaged in the import and export trade. The Chinese mercantile community grew dissatisfied with the firm, and decided to boycott it so long as the managing partner conducted the business. About twenty leading men among them agreed, to the boycott and signed a compact to that end. One stipulation is that a breach of the agreement brings with it a fine of 10,000 guilders.

Mr. Home, on behalf of Messrs. Herbert D. Hutchison and Company, has filed an application for permission to appeal the case of his clients versus the owners of the s.s. "Braemar," to the Privy Council. The action was recently decided against the plaintiffs in the British Supreme Court, and while the amount involved is less than £500, the minimum amount for which an appeal can be taken, in view of the grave issues involved, it is understood that an exception will be made to the rule on the present occasion.

The Chinese Government having been notified that an Exhibition under the auspices of the Netherlands Government is to be held this year at Medan, Sumatra, and that the participation of Chinese is invited, authority has been given by the Shui Wu Chu for the exemption from export duty of intended exhibits. Applications, declaring goods to be *bona fide* exhibits intended for this exhibition, must be signed by the applicants, in the case of Foreigners, before their Consuls, and in that of Chinese, before the Commissioner of Customs.

The Native Syndicate which has taken over the Shansi Mining Concession from the Peking Syndicate find themselves unable to proceed with work owing to lack of capital. Operations are consequently at a standstill, and have been thus during the past few months. About two months ago a foreign qualified engineer arrived in Tientsin to take charge of the mining operations. Unless capital be forthcoming, says a Tientsin paper, he is likely to find his position a sinecure. At least 5 million taels, fully paid up, will be required before anything can be done.

THE NEW CHINA.

(Daily Press, August 7th.)

There is nothing in the admirable little speech made by Sir ROBERT HART at the dinner given in his honour by the London branch of the China Association that will appeal to residents in China as being strikingly new to them; but a speech delivered in the metropolis of the British Empire by the great administrator—the Great Mandarin, as he is described by one of the London papers—commands world-wide attention. No man in China is better qualified than the universally honoured Inspector-General of Customs to express an opinion on the regenerating influences which are at work, presaging vast and pregnant changes in the national life of China. And optimism was the key-note of the speech. China, he told his audience, is facing the future with confidence. "The time of transition may be long, and both accident and mistake may have either the effect of retarding or temporarily stopping progress, but there will be an advance of progress surely, if slowly." Unlike many superficial writers on the subject, Sir ROBERT HART does not incline to belief in a rapid transformation such as the world witnessed in Japan. The transformation in China must inevitably be slow and it would have been extremely interesting to have had Sir ROBERT HART's observations on the forces making for progress in greater detail. China, it appears to us, will owe her transformation not so much to any initiative on the part of the present generation of high officials as to the force of a new public opinion created by the great army of Chinese students who are being educated abroad in more advanced countries. The West is daily coming more and more into violent contact with the East. When Sir ROBERT was speaking of his own particular work, he incidentally remarked that Western science and Western knowledge are reaching every hamlet in every province in China, thanks to the rapidly developing postal organisation. There can be no doubt about it that China is drinking deeply of the elixir of a new life and storing up energy and vitality to meet the changed conditions and the development that is still to come. It was as astute as it was wise on the part of the Government of China to announce the decision to grant a constitution and at the same time to delay the concession for ten years. The decision to grant the constitution takes some of the wind out of the sails of the more advanced reformers, while the postponement of its inauguration allows time for preparation which is most desirable and necessary. In the next ten years we may expect to see progress made in the rearrangement of Chinese affairs at a greatly accelerated rate, and the end of the decade will doubtless find the nation far better prepared to receive a constitution than it is to-day. We cannot measure the progress of the future in China by the achievements of the past. In the expressive phrase of the Inspector-General, the old has been cut away and the new is coming in. There can be no turning back. And "when the transformation is completed, China, with her immense territories, with the untold and yet-to-be-developed wealth of her great provinces, with her hundreds of millions of industrious, intelligent, law-abiding, and easily governed people, organized to meet requirements of the new times, and armed with the teaching and appliances of scientists—China will rank among the Powers of the world and be a great factor in history." There can be no doubt of that, and the prediction

is one which is read in Europe with mingled and uncertain feelings. But the completion of the transformation will not be witnessed in the lifetime of the present generation, to which Sir ROBERT HART does not vainly appeal for sympathy, for moral support and reasonable criticism. Whether China's transformation will necessarily make for the greater security and happiness of the West is a large question which the future must be left to decide for itself, but we can quite believe with the *Pall Mall Gazette* that one of the hardest tasks of Western statesmanship in the coming years will be furnished by this inevitable real meeting between East and West.

THE TYPHOON SHELTER QUESTION.

(Daily Press, August 8th.)

Though it is a matter for deep regret that the Government of this Colony should at the present time of severe commercial depression be required to embark on any scheme involving the expenditure of a large amount of money, we think the community will be convinced by the debate which took place in the Legislative Council Chamber on Thursday that the Government is amply justified in proceeding to construct an additional harbour of refuge for small shipping craft, though they may not consider that the arguments of the Shipping Firms against the scheme have been convincingly refuted. The protest of the leading British Shipping Firms, which denied that any real necessity exists for additional accommodation, came as a surprise to the general public when it was published a month ago. It was a complete *volte face*, for the need of additional accommodation had not hitherto been questioned, so far as we are aware, by a single public man in the Colony. Yet the case the Shipping Companies made out against the scheme was not one which could be dismissed in any off-hand manner. The impression it created was that all the past agitation for an additional shelter had been panic-born, and when the public recalled the terrible suddenness of the great typhoon of the 18th September 1906, it was difficult to contest the statement that "for a typhoon unsignalled, as in 1906 no refuge of any size or description or, situation would be of avail." The other contentions, viz: that "the area of the existing shelter at Causeway Bay is large enough for all practical purposes," "that lighters and large junks can ride at anchor as they have always done and that small craft can be well accommodated at Causeway Bay in ordinary typhoons," were contentions that we felt the Government were in a position to examine in the light of information which the Harbour Master and other competent observers were in a position to furnish. The severe typhoon of July 27-28th has since afforded a further opportunity for the collection of information on the subject, and the result is contained in the Government's letter of 6th inst. in which the fact that no fewer than six steam launches, one motor-boat, 10 European lighters, and 66 junks, cargo boats and sampans were wrecked, with a loss of 45 lives, is quoted as disproving the contention of the Shipping Companies. We doubt whether this list of casualties will convert the Shipping Companies until it is supplemented by information showing that those losses cannot be ascribed to the negligence of the persons in charge of the craft. At the present time cases are pending at the Magistracy against the coxwains of two launches who are charged with culpable negligence in not proceeding to shelter

when directed to do so, whereby two launches were sunk. The great majority of these losses were in the harbour, and it may very pertinently be said in reply to the COLONIAL SECRETARY'S letter that the losses would probably have been insignificant had the craft heeded the warning and sought shelter behind Stonecutters or in other similarly protected places. There can be no guarantee that similar risks will not be taken when the Mongkoktsui shelter is completed. On this last occasion the shipping craft had fully five hours' warning that danger was to be apprehended. The day's work was finished when the black signal was hoisted at six o'clock, and steam launches, lighters and junks had no pecuniary inducement to remain in unprotected parts of the harbour after dark when they saw the signals warning them of the risks they were taking. We cannot say therefore that the list of casualties on the present occasion affords convincing proof of the necessity for the new shelter. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, however, was able in his address to the Council to offer some proof that the shelter at Causeway Bay was inadequate on this occasion to accommodate all the lighters which sought shelter there, and he was able to give the Council information as to the number of vessels which sought shelter in Kowloon Bay, Hunghom Bay, off Yaumati, behind Stonecutters and in Chinwan Bay, a total of some 450 small craft of various descriptions, and it is, of course, conceivable that, had the Mongkoktsui shelter been in existence, they might all have obtained therein that greater security which a shelter is designed to afford. As to how many, if any, craft were lost in these sheltered bays, HIS EXCELLENCY'S speech affords no information, but the fact that so large a number safely rode out the storm in these places—and that something like nine-tenths of the casualties occurred among craft which had not sought shelter, if our information on the subject is correct—rather strengthens than weakens the assertion of the Shipping Firms. But if the direction of the wind had been different the results would possibly have been worse, and therefore it would be unsafe to rely on the experience of any one typhoon.

It has to be admitted that the Government has been given a strong mandate by the Community, and largely on the initiative of representatives of the Shipping interest, to proceed with the construction of another shelter as an urgent measure. The official papers which have been recently laid on the table of the Legislative Council, and in large part reproduced in the *Daily Press*, have shown how strong has been the pressure on the Government to construct this additional shelter, and they have also shown that various schemes have been fully considered without the necessity for another shelter being once questioned. We must recognise, in view of all that has been done, that further postponement would look very much like (to use the words of the GOVERNOR) "culpable vacillation." The arguments which, at the eleventh hour, have been put forward by the Shipping Firms, strong as they appear to be, are not so entirely convincing as to justify the Government in going back upon its decision in the matter. At the Legislative Council the Government found almost unanimous support. The Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART, the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, made it perfectly clear that personally he supported the Government on this question; he merely wished for a further postponement in the hope that the Chamber of Commerce would be likewise convinced

of the validity of the reasons given by the Government. The Hon. Mr. Gresson did not contest the need of another shelter, but said he had supported it on the basis of an estimate of \$600,000 of which one half would come from the Typhoon Relief Fund. The Legislative Council therefore is practically unanimously of opinion that another typhoon shelter is necessary or at least very desirable.

That being the case, the necessary funds have to be provided, and, but for the fact that the Government came to the decision that half the estimated cost must be obtained by the direct taxation of the shipping of the port, we should probably never have heard the need of additional accommodation questioned. The financial aspect of the matter has certainly changed since representatives of the shipping interest like Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Gresson committed themselves to the scheme. As Mr. Gresson explained, the original idea was that the additional shelter could be provided for a sum of about \$600,000, and that towards this expenditure a sum amounting to about one-half would be available from the Typhoon Relief Fund. Practically the understanding was that the Government would provide almost the entire sum out of the ordinary revenues of the Colony, for the Government's promised contribution to the Typhoon Fund of an amount equal to the public subscriptions would have come out of the ordinary revenues of the Colony. But additional taxation on the shipping of the port puts an entirely different aspect on the question. We can sympathise with the protest made by the shipping companies,—a protest made in the interests of the general trade of the port. In their Memorandum the shipping companies pointed out that they could always "even up" on rates, so that ultimately all additional taxation is met by consumers. If that is done there is little to be gained, from the general public's standpoint, in placing this additional impost on the shipping industry only. It is conceivable, though we hope the fears expressed will not be realised, that the results to the Colony's trade may be more serious than if the money had been raised by general taxation, though the outcry against any proposal of that character would have been greater. We cannot indeed contemplate with equanimity the prospect at which HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR so plainly hinted when he remarked that he feared when the Government came to frame the budget for next year "we may find that shipping is not the only industry which will have to pay extra taxation." The Government, we know, is obsessed by the notion that this Colony is lightly taxed. With this view we entirely disagree, and we trust that the Government before deciding on increased taxation will seek a way out of its difficulties in the manner suggested by Sir HENRY BLAKE in his recent letter to the *Times*, viz., by pressing upon the Imperial Government the just claim for a reduction in the compulsory military contribution rate.

The *Singapore Free Press* states that it is enabled on the highest authority to announce the engagement of Miss Anderson, the daughter of His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Anderson, to Mr. Geoffrey U. Farrant, of Messrs. Fraser & Co. Their numerous friends in the Colony and the F. M. States will heartily congratulate Miss Anderson and her fiancé. The former, during her father's term of governorship, has acted as chaperone of Government House and has gracefully performed the numerous social duties pertaining to that position. As for Mr. Farrant, he has made himself a popular member of Singapore Society during the time he has been there.

AN UNPOPULAR MINISTER.

(Daily Press, August 10th.)

It does not seem improbable that there will be another re-shuffling of the British Cabinet before long, and it may be hoped that in this next re-shuffle so many round pegs will not drop into square holes. It is becoming increasingly obvious that several members of the present Cabinet have been assigned the wrong portfolios. The case that chiefly interests us at present is that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lord CREWE ought to have been the Secretary of State for War, or First Lord of the Admiralty. There is more scope in either of these positions for the dictatorial manner which has marked his Lordship's direction of the affairs of the Colonies, and is rapidly making him most unpopular in all the Crown Colonies. Twice within a couple of months has a protest been made in the Legislative Council of this Colony against the categorical instructions sent out by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. We refer, of course, to the telegraphic instructions with regard to the closing of the opium divans, and secondly to the peremptory orders sent with regard to passing the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Bill. The Colony of the Straits Settlements shares the feelings of Hongkong in regard to the Opium instructions as they affect the revenues of both Colonies in a most disastrous manner. In Trinidad there has recently been a strong popular protest against one of his lordship's official acts, which was characterised by the same absolute disregard of the element of popular representation in the Colonial Legislative Council as is shown in the instructions recently sent to Hongkong. The complaint of the Colony of Trinidad is that after the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council had rejected a proposal to pay a Government director in London of the Trinidad Dock a salary of £250 per annum, the Secretary of State sent out categorical instructions to the Governor to take a vote of the Legislative Council for the amount, adding that "the vote must be carried, if necessary, by the use of the official majority." Not unnaturally this use of "the big stick" was strongly resented. It turned out that the Secretary of State had made the appointment at the salary named without the preliminary sanction of the Legislative Council. Very properly the unofficial members of the Council objected to being made subservient to the Colonial Office or the Government in such a matter. They considered the appointment a sinecure. Some of them after voicing their protests at the Council meeting retired from the chamber while two preferred to remain and record their votes against the Government. A strongly-worded protest has been forwarded by the unofficial Members of Council to the Secretary of State, and, in the event of it not being favourably received, they will have no option, apparently, but to resign. The Unofficials have the entire Colony of Trinidad at their back, for this is not the only case which, they allege, savours of jobbery. Of course, there could have been no intention on Lord CREWE's part to perpetrate a "job." He is to be blamed only for his neglect to consult the wishes of his advisory council in the Colony, and it is regrettable to observe that this same neglect or imperious disregard of local opinion is a charge which most Crown Colonies have been able to bring against Lord CREWE during his brief régime at the Colonial Office. So far as the protest of Hongkong against the order to close the opium dens

is concerned, we hope it has had its due effect, and we trust that combined with the protests showering in upon the Colonial Office from other Colonies, it will have the lasting effect of impressing upon the Secretary of State the necessity for changing his attitude of lofty indifference to local opinion in the Crown Colonies.

CHINA AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

(Daily Press, 11th August.)

With Russia, Persia, and now Turkey, countries under despotic rule, experimenting with constitutions the student of political science is afforded good opportunity of testing the conclusions of the particular teacher at whose feet he may have sat. In all these countries the people are seen at different stages of evolution. In Russia the malcontents have for long been clamouring for political reform, but having received only the semblance of a Parliament they are still far from being satisfied. The masses of that great Empire are perhaps not educated up to what is conceived to be the standard necessary to appreciate political freedom, but there is nevertheless an enlightened section which realises the value of the measure of representation accorded to them, and there can be little doubt that the principle, once recognised, would be applied further as the education of the proletariat proceeded. Perhaps less ready for the innovation were the people of Persia, whose ruler was the next to fall into line. In this instance there was no particular pressure applied to the Shah, and he issued the proclamation announcing a constitution merely out of goodness of heart and a desire to follow the lead of western nations. To what extent the change would have been successful is difficult to say but the new constitution was not allowed to develop. The Shah's successor on coming to the Throne, did not approve of any interference with his autocratic rule, and at present a spectacle is being witnessed in Iran which recalls some of the striking scenes in English history when the King and Parliament were in conflict. Unfortunately for the new assembly at Teheran, the Shah is able to command the army, and it looks as if the days of the youthful parliament were numbered. Here it would seem that the great political mistake of granting reforms to a nation not ready for them had been made by the well-meaning predecessor of the present Shah, but the mistake would not have been so apparent had the sovereign himself been sufficiently enlightened to follow the lead of another Eastern ruler, the Emperor of Japan. With the example of these two countries before them, the Turks are now about to taste the joys of representative government in part, and a constitution is being framed. It is too soon to prognosticate, but as the stream of western knowledge and culture has been pouring into that Empire there is some reason for believing that the people are sufficiently advanced to appreciate the boon which they have disgorged from their ruler and to make constitutional government in the Ottoman Empire a success.

Now we come to China. Quite a flutter was caused when the Edict was published announcing the intention to grant a constitution for this great Empire. It may be near or it may be distant, but the welcome the announcement received and the continued discussion of the subject in Government circles is certainly significant. To those who can read it tells plainly that new thoughts and fresh ideas are percolating the crust of ages.

and infiltrating the minds of officials and people in a manner that surprises even the most ardent reformer. It indicates beyond doubt that the reports brought from other lands by Chinese Commissioners have at any rate been debated and though obstacles may be placed in the way of those working for reform, there can be little doubt that the prospects of a constitution being established are not so remote as to remove them from present consideration. Even if the contention of the sceptics that the Government is not sincere in this proclamation be admitted, it is very evident that the Throne will not be allowed to forget its promise. Practically from every quarter of the Empire come representations and petitions bearing on the subject, and these show beyond dispute the awakening of the people. Though nominally the Son of Heaven and an autocrat whose word is law, the Emperor (or the Empress), as Chinese history has already proved, cannot afford to disregard the wishes of his subjects, and that in itself is perhaps the best guarantee that China will receive her Parliament and her political freedom whenever she is ready for it.

A hopeful sign is the announcement made in a Peking journal that constitutional bureaux are to be opened in the provinces within a year, and that all high officials are "commanded to select from the laws of different countries those best adapted to China with a view to submitting them to the Emperor." Significant as that announcement may be, it is surpassed in importance by the information that an edict has been issued by the Empress Dowager sanctioning the regulations drawn up by the Office of Investigation into Foreign Governments and Constitutions for the assembly which is to be created for discussing State affairs in each of the twenty-one provincial capitals, so as to make preliminary arrangements for the establishment of a parliament for China. Besides instructing Viceroy and Governors to inaugurate the provincial assemblies within a year and so supervise the election of representatives by the people for discussing provincial affairs the Edict orders the office named to draw up the necessary rules or the election of members of the future Houses of Parliament, and frame suggested regulations for the guidance of the Chinese Government during the next few years before the actual establishment of the proposed Parliament. In conclusion, it is stated that "the Throne will fix a definite date for the introduction of the important change after Their Majesties have perused the regulations and rules most carefully, as the matter concerns the future welfare of the whole Chinese Empire." The value of the change cannot be gainsaid, and all well-wishers of China will hope that the edict is not one of those to be withdrawn immediately it is published, but that it really marks an epoch in the history of China, and that the various reforms contemplated—the building of railways, financial and legal reform in hand, the establishment of a useful army and navy and the constitution itself drafted—will eventuate in this ancient empire once again taking a place consistent with her importance among the nations of the world.

The Yokohama Specie Bank is about to extend its foreign business by the establishment of new branches. As the result of a tour of inspection in Europe, America, and India undertaken by Mr. Bekki, a director of the Yokohama Specie Bank, who returned about a fortnight ago, the bank proposes to establish branches at Rangoon, Singapore, Montreal, and Vancouver in Canada, and Seattle. Branches are also to be established in Australia.

MIXED COURT TROUBLES.

(Daily Press, 12th August.)

The Chinese Government has recently refused to acquiesce in a Russian proposal for the establishment of a Mixed Court at Harbin, similar to the one at Shanghai, and the reason given for the refusal is that the Government of China is at present engaged in compiling a legal code on Western lines in the hope that its adoption will pave the way for the abolition of Consular jurisdiction. It is to be feared that the Chinese Government scarcely realises the vast amount of paving to be done before that dream is fulfilled. Legal codes will do far less than legal practice to pave the way, and a Mixed Court working harmoniously with the authorities of the Foreign Settlement in which it is established might be made a useful instrument and an index of progress along the lines which alone can prepare the way for the abolition of Consular jurisdiction. At Shanghai, however, the Mixed Court seems to be a never-ending source of trouble. A considerable portion of the latest Municipal Gazette is occupied by correspondence which has recently been passing between the Chinese Magistrate of the Mixed Court, the Taotai of Shanghai, the Consular Body and the Municipal Council, and the origin of all the trouble is described by the Chairman of the Council as a desire on the part of the Taotai to interfere in matters of administration in the Settlement which are beyond his province. The Taotai's first complaint is against the foreign policeman resident at the Mixed Court being allowed to enter the prison to make inquiries of the prisoners of both sexes. "The women's prison at the Court," says the Taotai, "chiefly contains prisoners the length of whose sentences has been fixed by the Magistrate with the Consular Authorities, and the men's prison chiefly contains prisoners who are in debt in Chinese and foreign cases. In every instance the procedure is in accordance with the sentence and there is no injustice involved." The Taotai's communication is supplemented by a petition from the merchants of official rank, who in their own words, "having been accused have the honour to be confined" in the gaol. They are, they explain "all respectable merchants, and although some are involved in Chinese and some in foreign cases, it is in every instance for trifling reasons as to goods bought under contract and money matters, all of which do not in the least concern the police." Whether this petition is the outcome of spontaneous action on the part of the petitioners there is nothing to show, but though this police inspection is represented as an innovation, it has, as a matter of fact, been the practice since the House of Detention was established for the Police to make inquiries from time to time as to the inmates, with a view to preventing the detention of persons who have not in the first place been charged before an Assessor, and to ensuring in each case that the direction on the charge sheet is carried out. Similar inquiries are made from time to time in the Female Cells, and the Chairman of the Municipal Council refers to a recent list of irregularities furnished to the Consular Body as ample evidence of the necessity for this course. The list in question contained a number of instances indicating that the Magistrate's statement that "in every instance the procedure is in accordance with the sentence and there is no injustice involved" is grievously incorrect. The Chairman of the Municipal Council added that the duty which the police are performing at the Court was generally

appreciated by the better class of the native community, and beyond question makes for regularity of procedure and justice.

The other cause of complaint was with regard to convict labour, the Magistrate objecting to criminals in the Settlement wearing chains as usual and "performing hard labour in the hot air and blazing sun." This punishment, he declared, was too rigorous and in disagreement with Chinese law. A paragraph in the letter reads: "The Magistrate has to observe that in China punishment during judicial proceedings ceases in the summer, and in procedure as to punishable offences feelings of humanity for the people play a part. The law as thus established is most excellent." In reply to this the Municipal Council say—"It may be sufficient to state that the whole system of treatment of these convicts is widely different to that commonly accorded to Chinese prisoners in the custody of their own officials, and application of the final test, that of results, will not fail to assure the Magistrate that the foreign method in vogue at the Gaol, though rigorous, is satisfactory and humane. The building and its occupants are open at all reasonable times to Mr. Pao's inspection, and the low rate of mortality, coupled with the general good health of the prisoners, should convince him that the system is a sound one." And the Chairman of the Council proceeds to remark that suspicion is not wanting that the Magistrate was actuated in writing the letter not by any genuine concern in the welfare of the prisoners, but rather by a desire to interfere in matters of administration in the Settlement beyond his province, and "in view of the attitude of the native authorities towards the question of corporal punishment, to which the present large number of prisoners is due, and in view of the recent revolting disclosures as to the condition of the Sinza Refuge, still without the benefit of foreign supervision, the Council is inclined to regard the communication in question as unbecoming and unwarranted." The reply of the Consular Body is not yet published. It is very apparent that there is in these disputes all the elements of trouble similar to that which occurred two or three years ago when about 3,000 bluejackets had to be landed to preserve life and property in the Settlement, and it is plainly necessary, if future trouble is to be avoided, that the Consular Corps, backed by the Corps Diplomatique in Peking, should make perfectly clear to the Chinese authorities of the Mixed Court the limits of their authority and the mischievous results of meddling interference.

REGISTRATION OF NATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.

(Daily Press, 13th August.)

From India to China for a quarter of a century or more the need for the registration of Native partnerships has been voiced and frequently considered with a view to the enactment of legislation, but neither in India, in the Straits Settlements nor in Hongkong has any satisfactory basis for legislation yet been agreed upon, and the respective Governments have been obliged to let the matter remain in abeyance. Some years ago the Government of Hongkong appointed a Committee to inquire into the practicability of a measure of this nature, and evidence revealed that most divergent views were entertained by leading business men as to the value of such legislation. Some of the witnesses were strongly of opinion that an ordinance requiring the compulsory registration of Chinese partnerships would have a

disastrous effect on the business prosperity of the port and these views were held to outweigh all other considerations on the subject. Not more than about two years ago the Government of the Straits Settlements drew up a Bill and referred it to a Select Committee for consideration, and in the end had to abandon the Bill. In India the question of providing by legislation for the registration of native partnerships has been under consideration at various times within the last forty years, and the Indian Government, which has just made another attempt at legislation on the subject, still finds itself unable to frame a satisfactory Bill. The Government of India fully recognise that "there has been a general and continued demand for legislation on this subject and are quite prepared to consider proposals for legislation." They believe however that it will be readily admitted that they cannot move in the matter until the several Chambers of Commerce in India are in closer agreement as to their precise requirements, nor until it is conclusively shown that the difficulties with which the matter is beset can be satisfactorily overcome. The Bombay Chamber has been conspicuous in its opposition to the tentative proposals put forward, but continued discussion on the proposals in dispute may finally result in some practical legislation for India. Complex as the question is in India, the difficulties in the way of such legislation in Colonies like Hongkong and the Straits Settlements are much greater, and in both Colonies the prospect of putting on the Statute Book an Ordinance providing for the registration of Chinese partnerships must be considered remote. In legislation of this kind the object aimed at is prevention of fraud. That flagrant cases of fraud on the part of Chinese firms are sometimes disclosed in the Bankruptcy Courts both here and in Singapore cannot be denied, but it is very much open to doubt whether any legislation providing for the registration of Chinese partnerships would effectually put a stop to cases of the kind. There can be no doubt that, if an official register of Chinese partnerships were kept, it would be of great advantage to Foreign firms having business relations with Native firms, and the work of the Courts would doubtless in many cases be greatly facilitated. But without striking a serious blow at trade it would be impossible to shut the door against fraud. The registration of persons resident in China as partners in a firm doing business in the Colony—such registration cannot well be prevented—would keep the door always open and the Chinese objections which were made to the proposed legislation at Singapore a couple of years ago rather suggested that legislation of this kind might have the effect of increasing fraud by the fraudulent registration as partners of persons resident in China. The object of the Ordinance would thus be defeated while the persons whose names had been fraudulently registered might be put to great hardship and inconvenience. Since the complexity of the problem has been shown the subject has ceased to possess little more than academic interest for Hongkong, but should the Government of India succeed in framing a Bill acceptable to the whole of the Chambers of Commerce in India, the Far Eastern Crow Colonies might be encouraged to again consider the question.

The Colonial Treasurer places the Colony's assets on May 31st at \$3,642,792.98, and the liabilities at \$2,287,116.18. There is therefore a balance of \$1,405,676.80 of assets over liabilities.

POPULATION STATISTICS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, August 14th.)

About three years ago Sir MATTHEW NATHAN made an effort to get a reliable estimate of the population of Canton in order to form an approximate estimate of the rate of mortality from plague in that city, and he came to the conclusion that the population of Canton was not known within a quarter of a million. Every writer who has ventured to give an estimate differs from every other on the question. It was estimated in a Customs trade report about ten years ago as 2,500,000, but a native official report not many years before gave the population as 499,288 exclusive of the boat population. We have seen the boat population estimated at 20,000. When Consul-General MANSFIELD was asked for information on the subject in 1904 he replied: "There has been a recent census, but it is confined only to certain areas, and does not include the floating boat population, Honam nor the villages in the outskirts. The estimate is 90,000 houses with an average of ten persons in each house." Our Canton correspondent, about ten days ago, furnished some particulars of a census which the police of the city had taken quite recently in which the Superintendent reported that "there are 3,858 streets in Canton, i.e., both walled cities, the suburbs and Honam"; the total number of registered and numbered shops and houses were returned as 90,863, and the total population as 487,336. Our correspondent characterised the figures as "simply ridiculous," and pointed out that the population gave an average of little more than five persons to every house. No one who knows anything at all of life in a Chinese city can accept figures like the above as reliable. To give an average of ten persons to every house would probably be very much under the mark, and then in addition to the registered houses, our correspondent says there are hundreds of small houses and huts both in the city and its suburbs which are not registered or numbered so that the official census lamentably fails to supply the information which is needed, especially if it is true that a poll tax is under consideration. Mr. MORSE, in his recent book on *The Trade and Administration of the Chinese Empire*, after remarking that the estimates of the population of Canton have ranged from 500,000 to 2,500,000, says the figure now generally accepted is 900,000. If this estimate is based on the return of the number of registered houses and shops, it is probably much nearer the mark than the estimate recently furnished by the Superintendent of Police to the higher authorities, but as it would still take no count of the "hundreds of small houses and huts" which are neither registered nor numbered, nor of the large boat population, it must be regarded as a wholly inadequate estimate.

If it is a matter beyond the power of the authorities in Canton, where a police force is maintained on modern lines, to take a reasonably accurate census of the population of that one city, we can hardly hope to get reliable informations as to the population of the entire empire. The population of the Empire has been variously estimated from 270,000,000 (ROCKHILL, 1904, and HIPPISLEY, 1876.) to 421,000,000 (POPOFF 1894). The Chinese Government, as the result of an estimate made for the purpose of the apportionment of the Boxer indemnity, to the Powers set down the population as 407,253,029. Mr. ROCKHILL, a former American Minister at Peking, after a careful inquiry, came, in 1904, to the

conclusion that all the official estimates made within the last 150 years were far in excess of the truth, and that the number of the inhabitants of China Proper was probably less than 270,000,000. And Sir ALEXANDER HOSIE, the British Commercial Attaché in his report for 1906, referring to a Customs abstract of statistics which placed the population of the whole Empire, not including Mongolia, at 438,214,000, said: "Having visited 15 of the 18 provinces of China proper as well as the three Manchurian provinces and seen how scantily many of them are peopled, I doubt very much whether the whole of China, Manchuria, Mongolia and the Hsin Chiang or New Dominion contain a population at all approaching the usually accepted 400,000,000." Now, Mongolia, and the new Dominion (Tibet, Turkestan &c.) is in area nearly 500,000 English square miles larger than China Proper, so we may take it that Sir ALEXANDER HOSIE would agree very closely with the estimate for China Proper made by Mr. ROCKHILL, if indeed he would not regard even that figure as too high for an area of 1,535,000 English square miles out of a total of 4,300,000 square miles, which is the total area of the whole Empire.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

The Governor did most of the talking at Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council. Usually he sits back in his chair with a twinkle in his eye or leans forward, with cheek resting on hand, to catch the points of the speakers during debate in the Legislative Council, but this week he held the floor himself for the greater part of the meeting. His opening speech occupied an hour in delivery, but in his reply he excelled himself. It was his most forcible utterance since he came to the Colony. He pressed home his points with astonishing vigour, and the applause with which he was greeted at the close was no hollow compliment, but a genuine appreciation of a well reasoned, well delivered, and convincing speech. His performance was not a bad one for a man who dislikes public speaking.

But why can't we do without taxes? I dislike 'em and I know many people who positively hate them, who resort to all sorts of subterfuges to dodge them, but in spite of that governments and municipalities will insist on making the people they are supposed to protect acquainted with the tax collector. Nobody wants to see the tax collector, far less to hear his voice, and his presence at the entrance to one's house can only be regarded as an insult. I have seen peaceful men roused to fury by the placing of a little piece of blue paper in their hands. We can sympathise with them, that is those who have been or are in the same plight. We remember when the world looked bright and beautiful, and all at once life hardly seemed worth living. The demand note for some legalised exaction had been presented. But hope springs eternal in the human breast; we have paid up and tried to forget our ills. Then came another demand and we contemplated whether it was any use struggling on or filing our petition at once. It would be an experience to go through the Bankruptcy Court, but—Aye, there is much significance in a "but." Really, though, don't you think that it is a reflection on the intelligence of the age that men have not devised a means of ridding themselves of this burden? Having seen all the wonderful inventions of the new century surely it is not too much to expect that some genius will arise and free us from this "old man of the sea," this weight that prevents us rising to great financial heights and keeps our balances at the Bank very small. We await the deliverer.

We have been hearing a good deal of late regarding measures to be taken to secure the safety of native craft, but some of them, it seems to me, have been made without due consideration for the portion of the residents who live on shore. The bay in the north of Stonecutters

has been suggested as affording a good site for a typhoon shelter. No doubt it would. But what about the bathers? Bathing facilities in the harbour are decidedly limited, yet thoughtless politicians would have the Government deprive us of the only spot near at hand where swimming can be enjoyed, and that is what would happen were the "powers that be" to utilise Stonecutters in the manner suggested. Of course the Government would then be called upon to provide bathing facilities, which would involve additional expenditure, a contingency apparently not contemplated by those who make the suggestions regarding that delightful little bay.

Recollecting the excellent service rendered by the searchlight of the "Astraea" on the night of the typhoon, it has been suggested that it would be a good idea to have a similar installation on board the "Tamar" which could be used during like visitations when none of our warships were available. I dare say it would be found useful for naval purposes as well, but as to that I cannot speak with certainty. However, the suggestion is put forward for what it is worth, and, if the shipping interest deem it worth while, no harm could be done by making representations in the proper quarter. The Governor has earned the gratitude of the Colony by arranging that warships should send wireless messages to the Observatory of any atmospherical depression or approaching typhoon outside, and I hope we may have cause to regard His Excellency with still more gratitude.

Travellers by the Peak Tramway hear some curious remarks occasionally in the car, especially when visitors to the Colony are doing the regulation visit to the Peak. The other day some arrivals by the mail steamer had quite a lively discussion among themselves as to whether they should return by the same route or by the other railway which one of their number declared was on the other side of the hill. Fortunately for them, they decided to take return tickets, and so the trip must have ended happily. How that visitor got it into his head that he had travelled down by another railway fourteen years ago would be interesting to know. He looked like a testotator, so we can't ascribe the confusion of thought to the old-time cock tails.

We run across one or two nuisances now and then on the water front and at Blake Pier, such as the Chinese gamins, but fortunately they are not so bad as those the Colombo Fort Police are called upon to suppress. It appears that half-naked children are in the habit of molesting passengers by running after them and shouting "papa" or "mamma." Certainly the spectacle cannot be very edifying, and the police are only doing their duty in protecting visitors from such insults.

There is some worldly wisdom in the brain box of the Indian who is the hero of the following story. He holds a subordinate position in the postal service and had just been fined for neglect of duty by his chief, whom he addressed in the following terms:—"Your Honour may be right, I may be wrong; I may be right and your Honour wrong, let Honour give me back the fine, and then at day of resurrection, when all hearts will be open, if I am wrong, I will most gladly, sir, return your Honour the money." It possibly occurred to His Honour that on the day of resurrection there might be a great gulf fixed between them.

The crusade against the cheeky coolies who are richa pullers or chair bearers still goes on merrily, and a few more convictions have to be recorded. It is noteworthy that late at night it is difficult to procure richa in the city. The coolies, haunting the vicinity of hotels, prefer to wait for a fare who is under the mellowing influence of a few drinks and who is consequently inclined to part with his money rather than take a fare who is strictly sober. No doubt it is only human nature, but the coolies who pursue this policy are putting a penalty on sobriety. And that cannot be tolerated.

The Cantonese, I note, are doing well with the Flood Fund Bazaar, and they are entitled

to congratulations. They have had the time-honoured opening ceremony with its more or less interesting speeches, they have had fair ladies—I don't feel inclined to alter the adjective because the ladies are not Westerners—exercising the arts of persuasion on all and sundry, and they have had generous patrons who seemed glad to welcome any excuse for getting rid of some of their money. The Chinese in Hongkong did well, their Bazaar being the first attempted by people of their race, but the Bazaar in Canton has the distinction of being the first in China, and the news of its success will give pleasure to all those whose sympathies have been aroused by the disaster which has overtaken the inhabitants of a great part of South China.

Dipping into an old volume of the *Chinese Repository* about a year ago I came across the following interesting letter:—

Macao, 9th March, 1842.

To H. E. Adriaão Accacio da Silveira Pinto, Governor of Macao, &c., &c.

Sir,—Being about to depart from China after a residence of many years, though not without the hope of returning, I am desirous of leaving some memorial to testify my grateful sense of the protection afforded to me, in common with the rest of my countrymen at Macao, more especially under the enlightened government of Your Excellency, by whose able management all the evils of a state of war have been averted from this important settlement, and circumstances of complicated perplexity and danger converted into elements of peace and increased prosperity. I therefore take the liberty of placing at Your Excellency's disposal the sum of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, with a request that you will have the goodness to appropriate it to some permanent purpose of public benevolence, bearing an inscription that it is an offering of gratitude from a British subject to the government of which Your Excellency is the head, and to the Portuguese inhabitants generally of Macao.

I have the honour to remain, with cordial wishes for the welfare of your excellency and family, Sir, Your Excellency's very faithful and grateful servant,

JAMES MATHESON.

H. E. the Governor of Macao, gratefully accepted the gift saying: "It would be criminal or at least very censurable of me to refuse a gift which is designed for the public good." But how Mr. Matheson's memory is perpetuated in Macao I have not been able to ascertain. Perhaps some resident of Macao can enlighten the public on the subject.

RODERICK RANDOM.

INTERPORT POLO.

HONGKONG DEFEAT SHANGHAI.

It was a pleasant "at home" that the Polo Club provided for their friends at Causeway Bay on August 12th, and the invitation they extended was availed of by a large number, the borders of the ground being lined by enthusiastic spectators. His Excellency the Governor was present, also the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary, and many other prominent citizens. The band of the Middlesex regiment provided music during the afternoon and the guests were supplied with tea and light refreshments by members of the club.

The feature of the afternoon was the interport polo match, a hard fought game which ended in favour of the home team. The visitors, however, were at a disadvantage, their ponies not being in the best of condition, the result being that in the last chukka two of the players had to carry on with the ponies they had used in the previous quarter. The teams were:—

Hongkong:—Captain Cunningham and Lieutenants Large, Dixon and Webb-Bowen.

Shanghai:—Lieut Colonel Bruce, Dr. Keylock and Messrs. Burkill and Davies.

Final: Hongkong, 11; Shanghai, 6 goals. Major-General Broadwood and Captain Wait fulfilled the duties of umpires to the satisfaction of all concerned.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR then presented the winners with the Cup, and in doing so congratulated them on their victory.

Cheers followed for his Excellency, the visitors, the ladies and the Hongkong Polo Club.

The interport polo teams were entertained on Aug. 13th at the Hongkong Club. The band of the 3rd Middlesex Regiment played during dinner, and a smoking concert following at which there was a very large attendance including, H.E. the Governor. The programme comprised a pianoforte duet by Messrs. Grimble and Ormiston, songs by Messrs. E. C. Graff, F. C. Carroll, W. H. Hannibal, F. H. Thomas, R. Sutherland, P. W. Goldring and J. Cochrane and a recitation by Mr. L. Hutchison. During the interval selections were given on the auxetophone, kindly lent by Messrs. Moutrie and Co. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. H. P. White, chairman of the club, presided over the entertainment.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, August 7th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE MORTGAGE CASE.

The case in which the Hip On Insurance Company and the Hongkong and Manila Yeng Sheng Insurance and Trading Company are plaintiffs entered on the fourth day of its hearing yesterday. Hon. Mr. Pollock asked if his Lordship would sit on Saturday, and his Lordship said that he did not intend to sit on Saturday. He asked if two more days would finish it, and Mr. Slade replied that he hoped to finish on Monday.

Mr. Slade said that the Imperial Bank case would come next week.

His Lordship said that in the day between the finishing of the present case and the commencement of the other he would take Bankruptcy.

Mr. Pollock—It won't be much of a holiday.

Sir Henry Berkeley then proceeded with his case on behalf of Kwok Yik King, and the hearing was adjourned.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE RUSSIAN BANK CASE.

The Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge sat to hear an application by the hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., for leave to appeal against the decision in the case Li Yau Sam v. Russo-Chinese Bank, the jury having given a verdict to Li Yau Sam who claimed \$41,015.12 from the Bank.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the Russo-Chinese Bank, and Mr. M. Slade (instructed by Mr. Beavies of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for Li Yau Sam.

The petitioners based their application for leave to appeal on the following grounds: (1) that judgment might be entered for them on the ground that the jury would not be warranted upon the evidence, if properly directed as to the issues and as to the law, in finding a verdict for the respondent; (2) or in default of the above order being made, that the verdict in favour of the respondent (the plaintiff) be set aside on the following grounds (a) that his Honour the Chief Justice misdirected the jury on certain points, (b) that His Honour the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury certain questions submitted by counsel for the petitioners. On July 24th the Full Court dismissed the application with costs. The petitioners now asked leave to appeal to the Privy Council, and that, pending the said appeal, execution of the judgment be suspended. The application was granted.

Monday, August 10th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LONG STANDING LITIGATION.

The Chief Justice delivered judgment in the action between Li Po Kam and Li Po Yung, plaintiffs, and Li Ling Shi and Li Tung Pak,

defendants, and in the matter of a claim by the Cheong Shing Bank and by Wong Tong to be entitled to the sum of \$11,424.94 paid into Court.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for Li Po Kam and Li Po Yung; Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. instructed by Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the Cheong Shing Bank; and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared on behalf of Wong Tong.

His Lordship said this case was a by-product of the tangled skein in which it pleased the late Mr. Li Sing to leave his affairs. Then he mentioned the many claimants for the sum and the many litigants who were connected with the case. Continuing, His Lordship said—This question is decided by the Partnership Ordinance alone; and by article 35 it is provided that, subject to any agreement between partners, every partnership is dissolved as regards all the partners by the death of any partner. The main question involved in this case being what happened to the Lai Hing firm of which, so far as this case is concerned, the trustees Lai Ling and Lai Kai Chuen were the sole partners when Lai Kai Chuen died, the answer must be the partnership was dissolved unless the application of Article 35 can be avoided. There was no agreement between the partners on the subject, but it was ingeniously argued that this notice in its application to Chinese partnerships must be read subject to the Chinese customary law of partnership, and that in the law an implied agreement will be found that partnerships continue in spite of the death of one partner, the legal representatives continuing in the place of the deceased partner. If this were an English statute introduced into the Colony at the date of the Charter and to be applied in so far as local circumstances permit, there would be much force in the argument assuming the Chinese custom to be as alleged. But this is an Ordinance passed in 1897 by the local legislature, and I can only hold, there being no reference from end to end to Chinese customs, that it was the deliberate intention to ignore the Chinese customs of partnership. Whether Kin was wise or unwise it is not for me to say, but I must point out to the Government the extreme danger of reproducing English legislation bodily into the Colonial Statute Book without at least considering the question how it may affect the custom of the large body of Chinese who are legislated for. It is a question on which I have had considerable experience, and in my opinion whenever the Chinese customs are likely to be interfered with by law introduced as this was, bodily from Imperial legislation, there ought to be an express statement whether their customs are affected or not affected by the law. As it is, however, if there is such a custom, and although it was not proved, I may go as far as saying that I am inclined to think it is as suggested, I am bound to hold that it is overridden by the express provision of this Partnership Ordinance. Article 44 provides that where any member of a firm has died and the surviving partners carry on the business of a firm with its capital or assets without any final settlement of accounts as between the firm and the outgoing partners estate, then in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the deceased partner's estate is entitled at the option of his representatives to such share of the profits as the Court may find attributable to the use of his share of partnership assets, or to interest at eight per cent. on the amount of his share of the partnership assets. These words are clear and apply exactly to this case. Now what Wong Tong, as alleged assignee of Lai Kai Shing's share, is doing is to assert a claim to certain specified property which has passed to Lai Sing as sole owner of the Lai Hing, subject to the rights of Lai Kai Shing as explained. This he cannot do, and therefore his claim fails. The contention of the Cheong Shing bank, which is based on that ground, also fails. Many other criticisms might be passed on the assignment, but it is sufficient to say that it is fearful and wonderful document both in fact and in law, and that it is at least singular that as it was made so long ago as November 1906 no attempt seems to have

been made to act upon it and recover the profits from the Chop Sing until they were attached by Li Po Nam and Li Po Yung. There only remains the expression used by Lai Sing in his will on which so much stress was laid. It was said that there was an admission that Lai Kai Shing had a quarter of the Lai Hing. The utmost that can be said of this is that the Lai Kai Shing's share, which had been allowed to remain in the business as above explained, amounted to a quarter, but, as is also explained, this is not the time when, nor are these the proceedings in which such a contention can be raised.

Tuesday, August 11th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

In the action brought by the Tung Tak Loong Firm against the Hip On Company the claim was for \$200 for breach of contract. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. S. Dickson, from the office of Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Dickson explained that the defendants' agent called on plaintiffs and showed them a sample tin of biscuits on the strength of which plaintiff ordered eight cases at \$26.50 a case and a contract was signed. Plaintiffs took delivery of four of the cases a few days later and kept them for a few days when they sold them to a purchaser for \$36 a case. The purchaser, however, returned them saying they were not good, and plaintiffs examined them and found they were as stated.

His Lordship, on being handed a tin for inspection?—They don't look very inviting.

Mr. Thomson continued that Captain Douglas said the other boxes were all like that. When plaintiffs complained about it defendants offered to refund \$1.20 on each box but that offer could not be entertained.

Mr. Dickson said the defence was that the plaintiffs bought the biscuits as old stock, paying only \$26 per box instead of \$45 which was the average price.

Judgment was entered for plaintiffs for \$85.66 and costs.

Wednesday, August 12th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A VERY GOOD POINT.

The Yin Kung Lam Sang Kee brought action against Kam Tsun Hing to recover \$182.55, being amount due for meals supplied the defendant and his guests.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. R. Harding for the defendant.

Wong Shau Shan said he was the managing partner of the Yin Kung Lam Sang Kee. Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist wrote the defendant a letter demanding payment at his request, and in reply to that letter the defendant wrote witness stating that he could not understand why he had acted in such a way, seeing that they had had dealings for so many years. Money was short, hence his delay in paying. He begged the gentlemen of the restaurant to give consideration to their friendship and grant him an extension of time.

In cross-examination witness stated that there were 18 partners in the plaintiff firm, which carried on business at Connaught Road.

As a matter of fact you don't carry on business at all now; this restaurant you are suing in the name of has been closed for several months?—It closed at the end of the last Chinese year.

And now you are endeavouring to collect outstanding accounts?—Yes.

Mr. Harding—That being the case, I submit I am entitled to judgment under section 483 of the Code, because the plaintiffs are not carrying on business. The section states that any two or more persons claiming, and carrying on business within the jurisdiction, may sue or be sued. In this case the plaintiffs are not carrying on business, therefore they cannot bring this

action. If they want to they must bring it in the individual names of the partners.

Mr. Grist—They still rent a shop and keep their books there. The business is carried on under the meaning of this Act until it is actually closed.

Mr. Harding (to witness)—Were not all the fittings and furniture sold from the premises in which the business was carried on?—Yes.

As a matter of fact you are not the tenant?—No.

Mr. Harding—I submit that is sufficient. He said they had sold the furniture and were not the tenants.

His Lordship—They may have an office somewhere else.

Mr. Harding—Your Lordship will notice that the plaintiffs give no address in the writ.

Mr. Grist (re-examining)—Where are your premises?—No. 11, Gough Street; family house.

And are the account books of the plaintiff firm in this family house?—Yes.

Are there many outstanding debts?—Over \$2000.

Are you still collecting that money as manager of the business?—Yes.

The final account of the partnership has not yet been made out?—No.

His Lordship—Carrying on business within the jurisdiction is put by way of opposition to carrying on outside the jurisdiction.

Mr. Harding—That is perfectly true, but it is clearly laid down "unless as a place of business held in the name of the firm."

Mr. Grist said the point had been quite sprung on him.

His Lordship—I won't decide the matter off-hand. It is a very good point and I will reserve it for consideration until Friday.

NON-SUITED.

Chung Tsun sued the Ye Shing tailor shop to recover the sum of \$29.96, balance of wages due.

Plaintiff told the Court that he had worked for the defendant for a period of two months, beginning on May 13th and ending on July 12th. Then he went home to the country, but returned on July 25th for his wages. The defendant refused to pay, and would not re-engage him. He had drawn \$10.24. His wages were \$20 a month, and he claimed the balance.

The master of the defendant firm said the plaintiff worked for him from 23rd May to 23rd June. During that time he gave credit for goods, and when witness told him to collect the accounts he ran away. His wages were \$10 a month, and he had received \$11.39.

His Lordship said the case was not proved, and non-suited the plaintiff.

Thursday, August 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

SCHOLAR AND COMPRAORE.

Action was brought by Ip Kee against Wong Hok Liu, second compradore of the s.s. "Hellas," to recover the sum of \$184, the equivalent of \$200 in Chinese subsidiary coin for money lent.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. R. Harding for the defendant.

Plaintiff said he advanced the defendant \$200 in Chinese bank notes, for which he received an acknowledgement. This amount was equal to \$184 in Hongkong currency.

In cross-examination, defendant said he resided at the French College, Canton.

Why did you call yourself a trader in the writ?—I did not know the customs down here.

Do you speak French?—Yes.

I put it to you that you were not living at Canton at all; you were living in Honam?—I have lived in Honam.

You've lived there most of your time?—I went there when I was very small.

Have you any property?—A little; enough for my education at the College.

What is it?—Money.

How much have you got?—\$300 odd.

How much interest do you get on it?—Four per cent.

Per annum?—No, per month.

Mr. Harding then put a series of questions, concluding with, How much do you pay for your clothes?—What do you want to ask me all these questions for? I am suing the man for money. Question repeated—Several tens of dollars a year.

Your late brother had a wife named Ip, Lung Shi?—How do I know her name.

What, don't know the name of your brother's wife! What used you to call her?

His Lordship—Probably he called her mother-in-law, auntie, or something of that sort.

Witness—No. I called her Ah So.

Mr. Harding said the defence was that the defendant went to the witness and requested him to ask Ah So whether she could lend the defendant \$200. He went, and on March 5th the amount was handed over to the defendant at Ah So's house in Des Voeux Road in twenty cent pieces. Defendant gave her an acknowledgement which he read out. It happened to be in the plaintiff's name, and the woman said she wanted it in her name. Defendant wrote another acknowledgement in Ah So's name, but by inadvertence left the original one on the table. When the defendant left the house the woman noticed the original acknowledgement, and gave it to plaintiff to hand over to defendant, but the plaintiff failed to return it.

Defendant's evidence (which was in accordance with his solicitor's opening statement) having been substantiated by Ah So, his Lordship found for the defendant with costs, told the plaintiff he did not believe a word he had said, and advised him to leave the Colony.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A QUESTION OF SALE.

The hearing of the action concluded in which the Hip On Insurance, Exchange and Loan Co. Ltd., and the Hongkong and Manila Yuen Sheng Exchange and Trading Co., Ltd. sued Li Po Yung and Li Po Kam for \$49,052.62 as money lent. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. McNeill from Shanghai, who were instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the plaintiffs; Mr. M. W. Slade, who was instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett) and Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented Li Po Yung and Li Po Kam; while Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for Kwok Yik Ting, the defendant in the counter-claim.

Counsel, having concluded their addresses, his Lordship reserved judgment.

Friday, August 14th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A HOST'S LIABILITY.

His Lordship delivered his reserved decision in the case in which the Yin Kung Lam Kee sued Kam Tsun Hing to recover \$182.55, being amount due for meals supplied defendant and his guests.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. Harding was instructed for the defendant.

His Lordship stated that Mr. Mirza, his clerk, had found a case very much on all fours with the present one, which was decided in 1902. In that case Mr. Justice Smith nonsuited the plaintiff, and the plaintiff appealed to the Full Court. The Full Court returned the case to the Puisse Judge, and the writ was amended. The point was not decided by the Full Court, so his Lordship did not think it necessary to pass his opinion on it. He thought the best thing was to follow what has previously been done, and allow the writ to be amended.

Mr. C. M. Dixon, who represented Mr. Harding, said that as the plaintiffs had made a mistake and could not have succeeded on the writ in its present form they ought to pay all costs up to the date of amendment.

Mr. Grist—If Mr. Harding had taken the point at once, and applied to have the writ struck out, then he might have got his costs, but he waited until the trial of the action had concluded; therefore the plaintiffs ought to have the costs of the trial.

His Lordship—I will order judgment for the plaintiffs subject to the writ being amended. I think defendant is entitled to costs for to-day.

Mr. Dixon—It was impossible to take this point before, because it was elicited in cross-examination that the plaintiff firm had ceased to carry on business at the date of issue of the writ. We did not know until we came in Court and cross-examined a witness.

His Lordship—I think you had a shrewd idea!

Mr. Dixon—We had a shrewd idea, otherwise we would not have examined on the point.

His Lordship—There will be judgment for plaintiff with costs, subject to the writ being amended so as to make all the partners in the firm plaintiffs defendant to have costs for to-day's appearance.

THE OLD PROTESTANT CEMETERY AT MACAO.

There is a strangely pathetic interest in a visit to the old Protestant Cemetery at Macao where lie crumbling into honourable dust the bones of many a sturdy pioneer of Western civilisation and trade. If some Thomas Gray were to muse therein for half an hour his poetic inspiration might well give us lines as enduring as the famous "Elegy" written in an English country Churchyard. The present writer is not a Thomas Gray, but many a reader may perhaps be thankful for a few lines which will serve to direct his steps to this historic spot when next he visits the peaceful little Colony of Macao.

The first burial in this ground was that of Mrs. Morrison, wife of Dr. Morrison, the pioneer Protestant Missionary to China. It is recorded in an obituary notice published at the time that "The Chinese refused a place of burial where it was desired, and where an infant of Mrs. Morrison's was before interred; and those Christians who inhabit Macao, not allowing other Christians any place of interment but within the limits of the Fosse, outside the city wall; the managing Committee of the English factory in China, with a humane and liberal feeling, assisted by some worthy Portuguese gentlemen, to overcome legal impediments, purchased a piece of ground to be a cemetery for the English, and we doubt not for other Protestant Christians who in future choose to avail themselves of it. This arrangement enabled Dr. Morrison to lay the remains of his lamented wife in a place decently appropriated to sepulture."

Mrs. Morrison, while anticipating a living mother's joy suddenly, but with pious resignation, departed this life after an illness of 14 hours bearing with her to the grave her hoped-for child. Death occurred at Macao on June 10th, 1821. An infant of Dr. and Mrs. Morrison died in 1811 and was buried "on the hill called Meesenber." Dr. Morrison himself was buried beside his wife in this little cemetery in August 1834. The inscription on the slab of stone which lies upon the narrow cell in which he was laid to rest reads as follows:—

Sacred to the Memory

of

ROBERT MORRISON, D.D.

The first Protestant Missionary to China.

Who died after a service of 27 years chiefly spent in extending the Kingdom of His Redeemer, during which period he compiled and published a Dictionary of the Chinese language and for several years laboured alone on a Chinese version of the Holy Scriptures, which he was spared to see completed and widely circulated among it was destined,

He was born at Morpeth in Northumberland January 5th, 1772;

Was sent to China by the London Missionary Society in 1807;

Was for 25 years Chinese translator in the employ of the East India Company

And died at Canton, August 1st, 1834.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them."

Last year the centenary of Protestant missions in China was celebrated, and it must strike many people as singular that nothing was done to renovate the tomb of the pioneer missionary, the inscription on the slab—at the end of the year—being almost unreadable.

Perhaps the only other name of historic interest in the cemetery is that of George Chenery which is inscribed on a stone slab let into the north wall. There is no date of his death and no recital of his virtues or his failings—simply his name in clear-cut letters. To Chenery are we of this generation indebted for some paintings of enduring interest, notably a painting of the old Factories at Canton.

In another part of the cemetery is to be found a stone to the memory of one John P. Williams of Utica, "who assisted in setting up the first magnetic telegraph in Japan in 1854."

The finest memorial in the cemetery marks the resting place of a son of the sixth Duke of Marlborough. He was a captain in the Royal Navy and died at Macao in 1840.

Perhaps the stones which most "implore the passing tribute of a sigh" are the frail memorials erected over the narrow cells in which are confined the bones of many of the sturdy old sea-dogs who piloted the argosies of commerce between the ports of England, Europe and America three-quarters of a century ago. It was not an uncommon practice in England in the early part of the last century for the friends of a deceased person to provide the sculptor of tombstones with a little doggerel by way of varying the monotony of the Scriptural text; and the sea-faring men who traded to the Far East seem to have carried a preference for doggerel with them. In the old Protestant cemetery at Macao may be found "graved on the stones" which mark the resting place of captains of barques once famous in the maritime commerce of the East some interesting examples of which the following may be cited and treasured:—

"Poor Wand'ers of a stormy day
From wave to wave we're driven,
And Fancy's haste and Reason's ray
Serve but to light the troubled way—
There's nothing calm but Heaven."

"The port is reached
The sails are furled
Life's voyage now is o'er;
By Faith's bright chart
He has reached that world
Where storms are felt no more."

"Though Boreas blows and Neptune's waves
Have tossed too and fro
By God's decree you plainly see
I'm anchored here below,
Where we at anchor safely ride
With many of our Fleet;
But once again we must set sail
Our Saviour Christ to meet."

A fund, of which the British Consul at Canton is trustee, exists for keeping this cemetery in good order, and though it cannot be said that the cemetery is in a neglected condition, one could wish for more evidence of tender interest in so historic a spot.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

Some time ago the authorities in Peking had under consideration a proposal to increase the tax on tea, in order to meet the growing requirements of the revenue. When the matter was referred to the provincial authorities for their consideration it was found that there were numerous and serious difficulties in the way of the proposed increase. Their Excellencies Chang Chih-tung, Yuan Shih-kai, and Duke Tsai have therefore recommended that the scheme be postponed, but they have urged upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce that the tea trade should be encouraged in every possible way, and this is the origin of the action of His Highness Prince Pu Ting, who is seeking to establish a tea combine and to finance it with joint commercial and official capital.

China is stated to have declined to accede to a request made by the Government of Russia for permission to extend her telegraph lines from Tomak to the Chinese frontier for the purpose of facilitating commercial communication with China.

A KOWLOON ASSAULT CASE.

The hearing of the summons for assault brought by H. A. Watson, engineer of Robinson Road, Kowloon, against Kaku Singh, a syce, and the cross summons, was continued before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on August 11th.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs Brutton and Eett) appeared for Mr. Watson, Mr. E. Davidson (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) representing the Indian.

Complainant's mafoo in part corroborated his master's evidence, remarking further that defendant claimed his bamboo. When his master went to the stable and told the Indian to go away they came to blows. Witness could not say who struck the first blow, but he saw five other Indians assist defendant in holding his master down and striking him.

Cross examined—Is this a very spirited horse?—What do you mean by spirited?

Mr. Gardiner—Is it a "bobbery" pony; that's the technical term?—No.

Although you say your master was being struck by six Indians you would not leave the horse to go to his help?—I was holding the horse, as I was afraid it would run away.

I thought this was a quiet horse?—There was a fight, and the noise made might have caused the horse to run.

The horse had carried a heavy man, was quiet, and after the ride must have been quiet?—After my master returned he did not go for a ride.

This closed the case for the complainant, who pleaded not guilty on the cross-summons.

Mr. Davidson, before calling Kaku Singh, said Mr. Watson asserted that the defendant—an Indian, who had been brought up all his life to look upon a European as a superior being—violently assaulted him in the presence of his servant and in a public place. This was a most unlikely state of affairs. No Indian would assault a white man, especially a white man who was physically his equal and superior, except on the strongest provocation. He asked his Worship to dismiss the summons.

His Worship wished to hear further evidence and

Kaku Singh was called. He stated that on Sunday, the 2nd instant, he was conversing with complainant's Chinese servant. This servant was going to hit him with a stone, but he seized him by the arm. Then the servant's master came and pushed and kicked witness. On the evening of the following day witness was telling some Chinese to clean a nullah when Mr. Watson appeared and abused him. Witness did not understand what he said, so he went into the stable. The European followed him, pulled him out and struck him. He called out and two Indians came. Complainant was strangling him when one of the Indians told him to let witness go. One of the Europeans told complainant to strike him, and then to take him to the police station.

Cross-examined—Defendant understood very little English, although he had been in the employ of Englishmen and Germans for two years. His masters spoke to him in Hindustani with the aid of a book.

Do you understand Chinese?—No.

Do the Chinese speak to you in Hindustani?—I know a little Chinese.

You just said you didn't?—I understand a little, but I don't know difficult words.

You also understand a little English, don't you?—No.

Not for the present time?—There is no need for me to tell lies.

Did you have the bamboo in Court in your hand at any time?—No.

It's not true that this bamboo was taken from your hands by two Europeans?—No.

Then they are lying?—The bamboo was lying on the ground.

Another Indian corroborated defendant's evidence, and remarked that complainant caught the defendant by the hair, knocked him down, kicked him and lifted him up again.

Mr. Gardiner—Did he kick him very hard?—Kaku Singh would know; I don't.

After further cross-examining Mr. Davidson said to Mr. Gardiner—Don't try to confuse the witness.

Mr. Gardiner—I'm not. I'm trying to make it as clear as I possibly can. He seems to be a bit of a fool, certainly.

His Worship dismissed the cross-summons, and fined Kaku Singh \$20, in default one month's imprisonment.

THE FOUNDERING OF THE "YINGKING."

THE INQUIRY.

A Marine Court of Inquiry sat at the Harbour Office on Aug. 11, to inquire into the circumstances attending the loss of the British s.s. "Yinking" of which E. J. Page was master. The Court was composed of Hon. Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate (President), Lieut. H. Butterworth, R.N., H.V.S. "Tamar," Captain E. Beetham, s.s. "Empress of India," Captain C. V. Lloyd, s.s. "Fatshan" and Captain E. E. Evans, s.s. "Hoi Ming."

The letter of the Harbour Master applying for an inquiry, and the Governor's warrant constituting the Court, were read.

Robert Fergusson, Chief Officer of the ill-fated steamer, said the "Yinking" left Canton at 6 p.m. on July 28th with a full cargo and about 430 passengers. Of those, three were Europeans. The crew numbered about 23, and the compradore's staff about ten. When they left Canton, the weather was overcast with a light wind. The glass was falling all the way down, and the weather getting worse, Captain Page decided to anchor. They anchored between Pillar Point and Castle Peak, the wind then being easterly and falling to the southward. It was principally on account of the heavy sea running that they anchored. The starboard anchor was first let go, and was given 45 fathoms of chain. Then the port anchor was dropped, and 30 fathoms of chain run out. Seas were then breaking over the ship, and witness thought she had sprung a leak, as she took a list to port. The pumps were kept going below, but they were not sufficient to keep the water under. The vessel continued to list more and more until at about 2.10 a.m. she foundered. Witness was on deck all the time, but had no opportunity to provide lifebelts as the passengers crowded round the alley way. The lifebelts were stowed on the steerage deck.

By Captain Lloyd—The gangway ports were all secure.

William Russell, assistant marine surveyor, said the "Yinking's" pumps were sufficient for ordinary purposes.

Yim Kau, boatswain, of the "Yinking" said he saw that all the ports were secured before the storm. He did not attend to the securing himself, but ordered some of the crew to do so. When witness went below the cargo on the main deck had shifted to one side, but he noticed that the ports were properly secured. When he went below to look at the chain the hawse pipes appeared to be all right, and he could see no damage to the bows of the ship.

Chief Officer Fergusson, recalled, stated that if water got into the chain locker it could not have escaped aft, as there was only a wooden bulk head.

By Captain Beetham—The vessel did not settle down by the head.

By the President—There were no bars to secure the cargo ports, they were secured by three bolts. The cargo did not shift while witness was below.

The Court found that the cause of the foundering was the typhoon which passed over the Colony on the 27th—28th ultimo. They also found that all reasonable precautions had been taken to ensure the safety of the ship and passengers, and that the state of the sea rendered any recourse to boats for saving life out of the question. Finally they desired to record their expressions of regret at the great loss of life.

The Furakawa Mining Company, owners of the Ashio copper mine, has on foot a scheme for the manufacture of electric wire, and has sent experts to Europe and America to investigate the industry in those countries. The mining company has agreed to carry on the business in conjunction with the Yokohama Electric Wire Company taking up half the amount (Yen 600,000) of the Yokohama company's capital.

THE COLONY'S ASSESSMENT.

The Government Assessor's report on the assessment of the Colony for the year 1908-1909 is as under:—

His Excellency the Governor-in-Council under Section 8 of the Rating Ordinance No. 6 of 1901, ordered the existing valuation for 1907-1908 to be adopted as the valuation for 1908-1909. During the past year no general assessment has been made, the difference in rateable value being the result of interim-assessments and appeals.

In the City of Victoria the rateable value has increased from \$8,892,205 to \$8,987,125 an addition of \$94,920 or 10.6 per cent. The rateable value in the Hill District has increased from \$261,070 to \$263,265 an addition of \$2,195 or 0.84 per cent.

At Shaukiwan the rateable value has increased from \$55,857 to \$57,197 an addition of \$1,340 or 2.39 per cent.

The increase in the Hongkong Villages is from \$220,659 to \$223,599, an addition of \$2,940 or 1.33 per cent.

Kowloon Point has decreased from \$470,180 to \$464,460 a reduction of \$5,720 or 1.21 per cent.

At Yau-mati the decrease is from \$236,585 to \$233,145, a reduction of \$3,440 or 1.45 per cent.

Mongkoktsui has increased from \$140,980 to \$144,565, an addition of \$3,585 or 2.54 per cent.

The rateable value at New Kowloon has increased from \$61,835 to \$62,315, an addition of \$480 or 0.77 per cent.

At Kowloon Villages the increase is from \$146,87 to \$150,367, an addition of \$4,280 or 2.92 per cent.

The whole Colony's rateable value has increased from \$10,716,173 to \$10,816,753, an addition of \$100,580 or 0.93 per cent.

During the period from 1st July 1907 to 1st June 1908, interim valuations have been made as follows:—In the City of Victoria 115 new and/or rebuilt tenements, rateable value, \$134,141; 13 tenements structurally altered, 228,265, replacing assessments amounting to, \$212,935; making a total of \$149,470.

The assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable were valued at \$26,910, thus leaving an increase in the City of Victoria, of \$122,560.

In the rest of the Colony 40 new and/or rebuilt tenements, rateable value, \$11,981; 10 tenements structurally given an increase of \$6,795, making a total of \$18,775; assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable, \$5,965; thus showing the increase in the rest of the Colony to be \$12,810. The total number of tenements affected by interim valuations is 229.

Notices of appeal were given against the assessments of 249 tenements with an aggregate rateable value of \$452,180; appeals against 110 tenements of a rateable value of \$214,365 were withdrawn; by Order of the Court reductions amounting to \$36,195 were made.

The number of reported vacant tenements in the City of Victoria inspected under section 35 of the Rating Ordinance averaged about 180 monthly, against 218 last year.

SICCAWEI'S REPORT ON THE HONGKONG TYPHOON.

Siccawei Observatory gives "Some details on the Hongkong Typhoon":—The signs of the approaching centre were in many points similar to those of the typhoon of 1906. The disturbance was possibly connected with a depression, signalled here, five days before, in the vicinity of the W. Carolines.

On the 26th at noon, the signal was sent to all the semaphores of a typhoon, S.E. of Formosa, moving N.W. The centre was supposed to be, on our maps, about Lat. 20 degree N. Long, 12 E. At 5 p.m. of the same day, the signal was sent to all the stations, of the centre having reached the S.W. of Formosa, about lat. 21, moving W.N.W. About noon of the 27th, it probably crossed the Pratas, the direction being N. or W.N.W. and the speed 12 in an hour.

The Members of the Shanghai and Hongkong polo teams were the guests of His Excellency the Governor at dinner on Friday night at Government House.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—It is an open secret among the Chinese here that on the night of the last typhoon the Chinese crew of a river steamer owned by a Chinese company were so greatly terrified, so much maddened by fear of the approaching danger, that they broke open first class saloon cabin doors to get at life belts. They terrorized the Chinese gentlemen in the cabins, and snatched their life belts from their persons by force. Fortunately the steamer weathered the storm, and thus the matter ended. Subsequently these saloon passengers complained to their friends on shore, and when asked why they did not bring the matter to the notice of the authorities, they explained that they were too thankful to have escaped with their lives, and so great was their joy over deliverance from death that they could afford to forgive the wretches.

Now, Sir, this may be their view, and it is a characteristic Chinese way of putting it, but the crime is really too serious to go either unpunished or unnoticed, and I would like to bring this matter to the notice of the authorities in Hongkong with a view to inquiries being made and, if possible, punishment meted out to the cowardly wretches, who are still employed on that British steamer. In their present position they are dangerous inasmuch as they are able to repeat the crime in times of emergency. There is no doubt about the accuracy of this statement. The facts were given by passengers, who are by the way wealthy and influential men in Canton.

Yours &c.

TRUTH.

Canton, 6th August, 1908.

A VALUABLE SUGGESTION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Might I trespass on a little of your space to put forward an idea which has suggested itself since our last typhoon.

Experience has shown us that there are always plenty of men able and willing to render assistance when these awful typhoons visit our shores; and we know that Britishers are ever ready to do "their little bit" in rescue work of this or any sort.

Combined effort is always more effective than individual and an understanding between those who are willing to face the elements as to meeting places and where to lay their hands on the necessary tools would facilitate the rescue work. As soon as the detonators were fired denoting the near approach of the typhoon, everything would be at hand to commence operations.

An association could be formed on similar lines to those in some of the English coastal ports. Depots could be erected at intervals along the Praya in Victoria and Kowloon, fitted up with life buoys, life lines etc., etc. There would not be any difficulty in getting permission from the Government to put up these small sheds, I should think; and undoubtedly our generous Hongkong public would come forward in their usual way to defray the cost.

Should this idea meet with the approval of your readers a meeting might be convened and a committee selected to work out the necessary details.—Yours.

"X. Y. Z."

What is described as one of the longest judgements given in the Singapore Court was rendered by the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. A. G. Law on the 5th inst. in which his lordship held that Chinese law and custom recognised polygamy. The case was one in which a dispute had arisen regarding the distribution of the estate of a deceased Chinese merchant. There were six wives in the case, and his lordship held that all should take shares in the estate, though he thought the first wife might have a larger share than the others. It was agreed, however, that all the wives should have equal shares.

NEW N. Y. K. STEAMER.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha have every reason to feel proud of the latest addition to their fleet. The "Kamo Maru," at present on her maiden trip, was on Aug. 11 inspected by a large number of Hongkong residents, most of whom spoke in terms of the highest praise of all that they saw on board. The saloon, handsomely furnished and beautifully finished, came in for especial admiration, and the drawing room and smoking room looked cosy and comfortable. The berths for the accommodation of the 83 first class passengers appealed to prospective travellers, equipped as they are with electric fans and light, while the comfort and convenience of the other passengers are proportionate. Greater value for passage money paid is not likely to be obtained elsewhere.

Hospitality was lavishly dispensed on board during the afternoon.

The "Kamo Maru," is the first of a new series of six sister ships ordered specially for the Company's European service. Constructed at the Mitsu-Bishi Yard at Nagasaki, she has come up to expectations, and her owners will find her a valuable addition to their fleet. Her length is 482ft. 6in., beam 56ft., and depth 34ft. 6in., while her gross tonnage is 8,600 tons. Built throughout of steel, and having a double bottom, she has been classed 100 A 1 at Lloyds. She is fitted with two sets of triple expansion engines and is capable of steaming 16 knots, having done 16.6 at her trial trip. Her passenger accommodation represents a luxury of travel at remarkably low rates. There are "suites de luxe" and single berth cabins, which are very handsome, while the state rooms are large and equipped with modern requirements, the social hall and drawing rooms being particularly attractive. The "Kamo Maru" can accommodate 83 first class passengers, 32 second, 12 intermediate and 140 steerage, and her cargo capacity is 10,219 tons. The promenade decks are wide and afford ample space for all sorts of games. A feature of the steamer is that she is fitted with Marconi's system of wireless telegraphy, and there are a barber's saloon, dark room and laundry on board.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

ANOTHER CANARD.

Publicity having been given to a statement that the Government had proposed that the opium divans in Hongkong should be closed next March and that, as compensation, a reduction of \$60,000 per annum should therefore be made in the amount payable by the Opium Farmer to the Government during the remaining year of his lease, we made inquiries in the proper quarter and were officially informed that the Government had made no proposal in the matter at all and that the figures published were absolutely incorrect.

SHANGHAI OPIUM SHOPS.

The following extract is from the *Shanghai Municipal Gazette* :—

A Police report is read on the results of the closing of the first quarter of the opium shops, stating how the proprietors and employees are now occupied, and how the smoking paraphernalia has been disposed of. Of the 358 houses which were closed 39 have become licensed shops for the retail sale of the drug, and, for the rest, the occupants are satisfactorily employing themselves in other trades. Nothing in this document warrants the anticipation of any difficulty as regards similar treatment of the second quarter.

Our Canton correspondent writes that Acting Captain Ng King Wing has been promoted by Viceroy Chung to the rank of Colonel and a few days ago was dispatched by his Excellency to be acting Brigadier General at Chik Kai Prefecture. It will be remembered that he was the official who arrested the "Tatsu Maru." This is his third promotion since the now famous seizure incident.

FRENCH TROOPS AMBUSCADED.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

Tonking papers to hand contain some particulars of the ambuscading of French troops at Lang-Vap, reported in a recent telegram.

It appears that it occurred in the course of a reconnaissance towards Langver where the "Reformists" were entrenched and hidden in the bush. Captain Fleury led his force to the attack and fell into the trap prepared for him. He and Lieutenant Delattre were killed. It is described as a particularly bloody affair. The fight took place in a *cul-de-sac* in the village of Lang-Vap, encircled by high hills which were occupied by 500 or 600 Chinese. The village was twice taken by the French troops, and each time retaken by the Chinese, shots being exchanged at fifty metres at most and finally at not more than thirty metres.

When Captain Fleury fell Lieutenant Delattre very bravely went to his assistance, and he too was killed by a shot. The Chinese threw themselves upon the bodies of the unfortunate French officers, not yet dead, and decapitated them, carrying away their heads amid savage hurrahs.

The Reformists manœuvred and seemed a veritable troop, well trained and well-armed. They had no Nobel rifles, but Indo-Chinese carbines taken probably at Banmang, which they knew perfectly how to handle.

Captain Fleury's detachment consisted of one hundred men—tirailleurs and légionnaires. Only one European soldier was wounded.

Captain Bay with another detachment found himself in a *cul-de-sac* and fought for four hours, only giving up the combat when his ammunition was exhausted. Captain Bay was only slightly wounded in the head. Two tirailleurs were killed in the retreat, and as the Chinese were following only two metres behind they had to abandon the bodies with their armament and equipment. A half section of tirailleurs disappeared.

Between the 18th June and the 31st July the losses suffered by the Chinese bands operating in the province of Yen-Bay were 149 killed and 117 prisoners.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Following are the Minutes of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 14th July 1908 :—

Present :—Messrs. W. H. Wallace, (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, Huang Ts'an-ohew, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson and the Secretary (C. Berkeley Mitchell).

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and confirmed.

An application was considered from the Revd. P. W. Pitcher, of the R. C. A. Mission, to re-erect a wall round his school, and, on the understanding that the public road opposite Mr. Hempel's house is widened, the Council agreed to contribute the sum of \$3 towards the cost of the wall.

A letter was read from Mr. Khoo Ewe Chye requesting the Council to have a public urinal close to his new house removed. It was resolved that he be informed that the Council regrets it cannot comply with the request, at the same time pointing out to him that the urinal was there before his building, and therefore in building a kitchen at that particular spot, he did so with his eyes open.

The Superintendent of Police reported that the following cases had been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting :—
Summonses : Breach of contract 4; Debt 6; Wilfully damaging property 1; Perjury 1; A chair coolie, refusing hire 1; Kidnapping 1; Refusing to quit premises 1; Encroaching on land 1; Allowing pigs and cattle to stray 1; Illegally selling land 1; Assault 1. Summary Arrests : Theft 3; Assault 3; Being a rogue and a vagabond &c. 2; Committing a nuisance 1; Being abroad after 12 midnight without a light 2; Being found on enclosed premises 2.

A contract has been arranged with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. for the rebuilding of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co's No 1 wharf which was destroyed in the 1906 typhoon.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

12th August.

FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

The Chinese community here are displaying great activity in the promotion of a Flood Fund Bazaar which promises to be a great success. A large marsh is being constructed on the Tap Siao ground, and in this will be contained the numerous stalls from which it is hoped to realise a substantial sum for the relief of the sufferers by the flood. The Bazaar was to have been opened on Saturday, but the marsh will not be completed by that day. The Chinese in the surrounding villages have responded liberally to the appeal for articles for sale, and it is expected that there will be a great display on the opening day of the Bazaar.

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

Our new Governor, Senhor Alves Roçado, the hero of Guomato (Africa) is expected to arrive here in a few days. According to Lisbon papers, His Excellency has been holding long conferences with some of the Ministers, and has been trying to persuade them that the Colony's revenue should be expended on local improvements with the exception of the Timor vote, which was fixed at \$30,000 annually. Notwithstanding that fixture, I believe that that Colony now receives \$60,000 a year. His Excellency asked for special permission to carry out much-needed improvements, especially in sanitary matters.

THE POST OFFICE LOOTED.

The success achieved by a local band of thieves is making them very daring, and frequent robberies have been reported of late. Their operations are not only confined to tenanted houses, but from empty dwellings they remove windows, doors and other fixtures. On Saturday last when the Post Office employees arrived at the office in the morning for the day's work, they were surprised to find the Post Office door open. An inspection showed that the thieves had broken a window and thus gained admission. Desks were broken open and upwards of \$300 and a great quantity of stamps and stamped papers were stolen. And while such nefarious tasks can be accomplished with success, and with apparently little risk, the public have a right to ask—What are the police doing? The audacity of this robbery will be readily understood when I say that day and night two sentries are stationed within a stone's throw of this building. One patrols at the Fazenda and the other at the Gaol. And yet the thieves were successful in carrying off their booty. The dilatoriness of officialdom in these circumstances is a shame and a disgrace.

SERIOUS COLLISION REPORTED.

News was brought to the Colony on August 11th of a serious collision which is said to have occurred in the Sillam Channel, the West River steamer "Tai-on" running down a theatre junk on which were 120 passengers. The junk is said to have foundered, and 20 of the passengers were drowned.

The Canton authorities have received cable news from Peking that Ex-Viceroy Shun Chun Huen is about to take up active service again. Most of the officials and gentry in Canton, remarks our Canton correspondent, do not like the news at all.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce have already issued invitations to American merchants of San Francisco and other places in the Eastern States to visit Japan this autumn, reports the *Japan Advertiser*. The representatives of the Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe Chambers of Commerce met in the Taikaro in Kyoto on July 28th with the object of making preparations to welcome the visitors. It is expected that the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs will give a soirée in their honour. They will also be invited to an Imperial chrysanthemum party and likewise visit the Imperial Horticultural Garden at Shinjuku and the Shiba Detached Palace. The programme of entertainments to be given by the Japanese Chambers of Commerce is not yet arranged.

TRADE OF SIAM.

LARGE AND STEADY EXPANSION.

The Customs statistics of the foreign trade of Bangkok for 1907-8 show a large and steady expansion of trade.

Excluding treasure, opium, gold leaf and re-exports, the total trade for the year 1905-6 amounted to Ticals 164,974,255, for 1906-7 to Ticals 169,732,572, for and 1907-8 to Ticals 163,265,652. The average total trade for the past five years is Ticals 151,471,908, so that last year's figures are largely in excess of that. The exchange value of the tical, says the "Bangkok Times," has appreciated slightly since last year and at the present rate (Tcs. 13 33 to be £) the total trade of Ticals 178,423, 133 works out at £13,385, (81). There is a decrease in the exports of Tcs. 6,124 992, as compared with last year, a decrease entirely due to the falling off in the export of rice and an increase in the imports over the same period of Ticals 1,626,863, caused principally by the large increase of treasure imported.

The main decrease in the exports is to be put down to rice. The average value of rice exported for the last five years is Ticals 74,797,973, so that, although there is a decrease as compared with the amount exported in the year 1906-7, there is an increase over the average for five years of Ticals 783,483 or 330,275 piculs. This year (1908-9) for the four months April to date, the amount of duty paid on rice is Ticals 979,209 as compared with Ticals 793,652 for the first four months of last year. The value of last year's teak export Ticals 13,350,737 shows a slight increase of Ticals 11,957, when compared with the year 1906-7 and a rise of Ticals 2,425,619 over the average for the five years.

The value of valuable woods grown in Siam again showed a decline, which is all the more noticeable on account of the steady increase in the import of Singapore wood.

The cattle trade, the hide trade, the platu (fish) trade show a decline, and decreases are to be found under pepper, which in 1906-7 was well over the million tical mark, and which now has fallen to Ticals 774 855, birds' nests (Ticals 123,230), cotton (Ticals 1.3 8), and raw silk (Ticals 47,170).

SHIPPING NEWS.

FIRE ON THE "CRANLEY."

Fire broke out on the s.s. "Cranley" on Sunday as she was lying in Hunghom Dock. Smoke was noticed coming from the peak where oil and paints were stored, but the dock staff with the aid of powerful pumps extinguished the flames before they got a hold. The fire boat was summoned but neither it nor the services of the Fire Brigade were needed.

THE SHIRE LINE.

There seems to be considerable prospect that the British Shire line intends to compete against both North-German Lloyd and the Hamburg-American Lines in the Far East, says the Hamburg correspondent of *The Times*. The British Line, which formerly started from Middlesbrough and London now proposes to make Hamburg its starting point for East Asia. Both passengers and goods are to be carried.

BANGKOK DOCKS BUSY.

Tenders by the Bangkok Dock Company, for several important contracts have been accepted recently, and work now in hand totals up to upwards of half a million ticals. A fine new ship and launch building shed has just been completed, this being part of the improvement of premises and plant scheme. The first work to occupy this shed will be the East Asiatic Co.'s, Ltd. new steel towing lighter, the largest lighter yet erected in Bangkok, and she will be followed immediately by a steel towing lighter for The Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Ltd. The material for the new steel steam tug for The East Asiatic Co. Ltd. has also arrived by the s.s. Samui, and erection will be started immediately in shed No. 2. The hull of a new steel shallow draft launch for the Siam Packet Co. Ltd. is expected within the next few days, and work on the hulls of the large passenger launches for the Patrier run of the same Co. is well advanced.

HONGKONG CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Aug. 11 at the Company's offices, Hotel Mansions. Mr. R. Shewan presided and there were also present Messrs. G. Friesland, C. Brodersen, W. Helms, C. Thiel, H. E. Tomkins, F. D. A. Gomes (directors), A. H. M. da Silva, L. Hutcheson, J. M. E. Machado, Dr. Noble, T. F. Hough, Chau Shui Ki, P. D. Gotts, Erich Georg, A. V. Hogg, P. Tester, F. C. Wilford, and Captain W. E. Clarke (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, we will, with your permission, take them as read. The result of the half-year's working will, I hope, be considered by shareholders very satisfactory considering the general trade depression existing throughout the Far East. Your Board trust that the recommended appropriations of funds will meet with your approval. For the service of an additional steamer on the Hongkong-Macao line and in order to further facilitate the business of that trade your Directors have acquired the wharf and lease of the site known as the Wing Lok Wharf, situated at the junction of Wing Lok Street and Des Voeux Road. The lease of the site is for 50 years granted in 1904. We have found this wharf to be a very valuable acquisition to our business. In May last your Board were able to dispose of the Company's small steamer "Lungshan," and, in the following month, to purchase the steamer "Hoi Sang," a vessel well suited for the Canton-Macao line. She has been working very satisfactorily since starting. By the purchase of this steamer we were able to conclude negotiations for a cessation of the opposition then existing on our Hongkong-Macao line. The regrettable loss of the Company's jointly owned steamer "Powan" on the night of the 8th June, while on a voyage hence to Canton, caused your Directors much anxiety. Captain Black was one of our most trusted and careful officers, but, in view of the finding of the Marine Court of Inquiry, your Directors had no choice left but to call upon him to resign the service. Immediate steps were taken to obtain a report from experts as to the possibility of salvage, but nothing could be done and the vessel became a total loss. The claims on Underwriters are now in course of settlement. Your Directors freely acknowledged all services rendered after the accident, and granted gratuities where such services warranted it. The West River services have been devoid of any profitable result during the period under review. The loss by subsidiary coinage during the six months' working amounted to \$22,320.85. The loans on mortgage have been increased by \$25,000 and shares in public companies by \$6,487 during the half year under review. These loans and investments are, in the opinion of your Board, all good and safe investments. I do not think that there is anything else that calls for particular comment, but, should any shareholder require any further information, I shall have pleasure in answering any question. Dr. NOBLE seconded the motion, and in doing so, said—I would like to say a few words with reference to the very large item in the accounts with regard to the loss on subsidiary coinage. It seems to me high time that something should be done by those in authority with reference to this question of coinage so that in the future we will have such items eliminated from the reports of local companies. It seems to me that this is a matter for serious consideration and in the present instance the loss represents no inconsiderable sum.

The resolution was carried.

The confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. G. Friesland, C. Brodersen and W. Helms as directors, was carried on the motion of Mr. HOUGH seconded by Mr. HOGG.

Mr. MACHADO proposed, and Mr. DA SILVA seconded, that Messrs. C. Thiel and C. H. Ross be re-elected Directors. Carried.

It was proposed by Mr. TESTER and seconded by Mr. HUTCHESON that Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors for the ensuing half-year.

Agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, Gentlemen. Dividend warrants are now ready and may be obtained upon application. Thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The eighty-sixth report of the Court of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 22nd August, at noon, reads as follows:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and Balance Sheet for the half-year ending 30th June, 1908.

The net profits for that period, including \$2,000,387.85, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$5,403,917.67.

The Directors recommend the transfer of \$500,000 from the Profit and Loss Account to credit of the Silver Reserve Fund, which fund will then stand at \$14,000,000.

They also recommend writing off Bank Premises Account the sum of \$250,000.

After making these transfers and, deducting remuneration to Directors, there remains for appropriation \$4,638,917.67, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of two pounds sterling per share, viz.: £240,000—which at 1/8d, the rate of the day, will absorb \$2,633,142.86.

The balance \$2,005,774.81 to be carried to New Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. J. Raymond, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. A. Fuchs, the Honourable Mr. Henry Keswick (Chairman) and Mr. E. Goetz (Deputy Chairman) having resigned their seats on leaving the Colony, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. C. G. E. Brodersen, the Honourable Mr. W. J. Gresson, and Mr. W. Helms have been invited to fill the vacancies; these appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

Mr. E. Shellim has been elected Chairman for the remainder of the year, and the Honourable Mr. W. J. Gresson Deputy Chairman.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, the latter in the place of Mr. A. G. Wood, who has left the Colony.

E. SHELLIM,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 11th August, 1908.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 30th June, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Paid-up capital,	\$15,000,000.00
Sterling reserve fund, £1,500,000 at ex 2/..	15,000,000.00
Silver reserve fund,	13,500,000.00
Marine insurance account,	250,000.00
Notes in circulation:—	
Authorised issue against securities and coin deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies and their trustees,	\$15,000,000.00
Additional issue authorised by Hongkong Ordinances against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government,	1,473,278.00
Current accounts,	16,473,278.00
Silver,	\$84,312,175.01
Gold, £5,442,319. 5s.	
11d. =	61,880,696.00
Fixed deposits,	145,692,871.89
Silver,	\$56,385,246.70
Gold, £4,747,740. 3s.	
11d. =	53,576,940.53
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers, call loans and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments),	109,962,187.23
Profit and loss account,	13,498,485.54
	5,403,917.67

Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £3,950,845. 2s. 10d. of which £4,714,233, 19s. 11d. have since run off.

ASSETS.	
Cash	\$333,780,740.33
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against authorised and/or excess note circulation,	50,850,978.47
Bullion in hand in transit	10,000,000.00
Indian Government rupee paper	2,076,785.88
Consols, Colonial and other securities	2,458,968.56
Sterling Reserve Fund Investments, viz.:—	6,743,893.63
£1,208,000 2½ per cent. consols at 82	£990,560
(of which £250,000 lodged with the Bank of England as a Special London Reserve.)	
£255,000 2½ National War Loan at 90	229,500
£325,000 other sterling securities written down to	279,940
	£1,500,000 at ex. 2/..
	15,000,000.00
Bills discounted, loans and credits	109,877,225.79
Bills receivable	135,482,748.96
Bank premises	1,790,169.04
	\$333,780,740.33

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
30th June, 1908.	
To amounts written off:—	
Remuneration to directors	\$15,000.00
To dividend account:—	
£2 per share on 120,000 shares=	
£240,000 at 1s. 9½d. =	2,633,142.86
To transfer to silver reserve fund	500,000.00
To transfer to bank premises account	250,000.00
To balance forward to next half-year	2,005,774.81
	\$5,403,917.67

Cr.	
By balance of undivided profits, 31st Dec. 1:07	\$ 0.
2,000,387.85	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 30th June, 1908, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	8,408,526.82
	5,403,917.67

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance £1,500,000.00 at ex 2s.	\$15,000,090.00
(invested in Sterling Securities).	
By Balance 31st December, 1907, £1,500,000 at ex. 2s.	15,000,000.00
	15,000,000.00
To Balance	14,000,000.00
	\$14,000,000.00
By Balance 31st December,	\$13,500,000.00
Transfer from Profit and Loss Account	500,000.00
	\$14,000,000.00

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the Board of Directors to be submitted to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on Monday, the 24th August, at noon is as follows:—

To the shareholders of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 30th June, 1908.

The net profit for the six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amount to \$274,577.68 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account

	441,442.51
	\$716,020.19
and from this have to be deducted—	
Directors' fees	\$10,000.00
Auditor's fees	750.00
	10,750.00

leaving available for appropriation...\$705,270.19

The Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8 per cent or \$200,000 be paid to shareholders, that \$50,000 be passed to a special account (No. 1 Dock extension), that \$65,820 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, \$4,602.85 from the Cosmopolitan Dock and the balance \$384,847.24 be carried to the new account.

The new work in hand at the end of 1907 has all been completed and is included in the past half year's working. There is a fair amount of new work at present in hand.

The new tug and salvage boat "David Gillies" has been in service since the beginning of May, and has been found admirably adapted for the work for which she was constructed.

The dredger "Canton River" was only employed during a small portion of the period under review.

As will be seen from the accounts, several new machines have been installed at the Kowloon establishment. The boiler shop extension is well advanced, and will soon be completed. New store houses have been built for the fire engine and wrecking gear, to enable their removal from the block containing hazardous goods.

The extension to the No. 1 Dock progresses slowly now that working on the solid rock has commenced but it is hoped that the contractor will complete the excavation, sufficient to dock large steamers, within contract time.

H. P. WHITE,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th August, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital 50,000 shares of \$50 each, fully paid up	2,500,000.00
Admiralty loan	£20,000 00
Less repayments 19,573 75	
	£426 12 7 at 1s. 9½d.
	4,680.78
No. 1 dock extension account	150,000.00
Marine insurance account	76,199.43
Sundry creditors	1,946,036.51
Balance of profit brought forward from last account	441,442.51
Profit for the half-year ending June 30th, 1908	274,577.68
	716,020.19
	\$5,891,936.86

ASSETS.

Aberdeen.	
Value of Aberdeen docks, as per last statement	100,000.00
Kowloon.	
Value of Kowloon docks as per last statement	2,508,455.00
Amount paid on account of boiler shop extension, moulding shop, fire engine and wrecking store, additions to plant and installing same	67,365.00
	2,575,820.90

No. 1 Dock Extension Account.

Amount paid as per last statement	57,858.08
Amount expended during six months 1st January to 30th June, 1908	29,905.70
	87,791.78

Cosmopolitan.

Value of Cosmopolitan dock, as per last statement	393,066.92
Amount paid erecting New Iron Store	4,536.03
	397,602.95
Value of tugs, dredgers, launches, lighters and S.S. Sorsogon	535,532.95
Sundry debtors	408,416.01
Value of material expended on work in progress	117,809.69
Value of material on hand	1,869,463.48
	1,486,773.17
	\$5,861,936.86

REVENUE ACCOUNT,

To interest	\$7,110.89
To Crown rent	4,973.50
To fire insurance	3,069.75
To office expenses, salaries, stationery and rent of head office	38,180.45
To telegrams	2,033.57
To legal expenses	232.30
To marine insurance account	7,566.00
To profit	274,577.68
	\$381,778.51
By net earnings	\$381,778.51

THE CANTON FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 6th.

The opening of the Bazaar took place yesterday with the usual ceremonies in the presence of distinguished guests and a great concourse of people who had come from the neighbouring ports and towns.

His Excellency Viceroy Chang was unable to attend owing to the day being an official mourning day. Most of the foreign Consuls and the leading foreign residents attended the ceremony which was presided over by Ex-Governor Tang-Shin-Chen.

As in Hongkong, high prices were paid for small articles. The Viceroy's wife purchased a small embroidered picture for \$1,000, Mr. Lo Yuet Sheun paid \$1,000 for a small square of embroidered characters, and a bottle of lemonade was purchased for \$1,000 by a wealthy Chinaman.

A copy of the first issue of a newspaper 44 years ago, was put up for auction and knocked down to another philanthropist for \$400. Mr. Fung Wa Chun, of Hongkong, who was appointed general adviser to the Bazaar Committee, made numerous purchases. The sale was brisk and over \$10,000 were netted on the opening day. The Bazaar will continue for the next six days and bids fair to be as huge a success as that held in your port.

The proceeds of the first two days amount to \$30,000.

The result of yesterday's sale was over \$30,000, which is made up as follows:—

Cash	\$ 9,101.40
Credit, about	15,000.00
Subscriptions about	6,000.00

\$30,101.40

Messrs. So Sing Kue and Kong Hung Yan were the biggest purchasers of the day. Mr. So paid \$1,000 for a small embroidered picture, \$2,000 for a bottle of aerated water of the On Lok Aerated Water Factory, \$700 for a cup of coffee; \$1,500 for a bottle of lemonade of the Canton Aerated Water Factory; \$1,000 for a small bowl of macaroni, and \$500 for a peep at the Yau Tin Lok theatre; besides the above items he spent various sums from \$50 to \$200 for other small articles such as cigarettes, matches, fans, &c. Mr. Kong purchased a portrait of Confucius for \$2,000, besides sundry other purchases amounting altogether to about \$4,000. Many officials patronized the Bazaar yesterday and spent large sums of money. The Kwong Chow Prefect, and the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates all made purchases amounting to \$1,000 each.

The daily issue of several of the local papers are selling at \$10 a copy in the Bazaar. The total proceeds of sale of the first and second days amount to over \$50,000.

The proceeds of the sale at the Bazaar on the 7th instant again turned out to be satisfactory. The amount netted was over \$12,000. The place was more crowded than on the two previous days. Although there were not so many big prices paid for articles as on the 6th instant individual purchases were more numerous. The highest price paid for a single article yesterday was for an embroidered flag bearing the characters "token of remembrance of the disastrous Flood" which fetched \$1,500, the purchaser being Mr. Lai Kwai Pui, of Canton-Hankow Railway fame. The copy of the old Hongkong Chinese newspaper was resold for \$500, Mr. Lai being the purchaser. Mr. Wong King Tong paid \$300 for a "look-see" at the Theatre.

The policing of the place is deficient and the crowds moving in masses in all directions renders movement difficult. A prominent European resident's wife was badly pushed about and came back with bruises on her arms, through the excessive zeal of the female vendors who were disputing her patronage. The Bazaar Committee have decided to hold sales on Sunday and also in the evening from 7 to 9 p.m. commencing from the 9th to the 12th instant and a cinematograph performance will be added to the existing attractions.

The sales at the Bazaar are still very brisk. The cash proceeds on the 8th and 9th instant

amounted to \$9,978.95 and \$7,590.25 respectively, besides the credit sales and donations which reached several thousands dollars for each day.

The most prominent purchasers on the 8th instant were Messrs. Lo Kwan Shek, Li Ching Chan, Chu Chik Po, So Sing Kue and Kong Sew Cheun, all of whom spent over \$1,000 each.

An embroidered picture describing the misery caused by the flood, made by the scholars of the Ha Kot Girls Schools, was purchased by Mr. Lo Kwan Shek for \$1,500. Mr. Li Ching Chan paid \$500 for four embroidered scrolls. Mr. Chu Chik Po bought a small embroidered picture for \$700. Mr. So Sing Kue, who donated over \$150,000 towards the Flood Fund, again paid \$700 for a cup of coffee. Mr. Kong Sew Cheun, who appears to appreciate the refreshments in the Bazaar, ordered a bottle of lemonade and a cup of coffee, and paid \$200 for each drink.

It is reported that complaints have been made to the Bazaar Committee regarding the zeal of the lady vendors who in their eagerness to sell something from their stalls will not let their intending patrons leave before they have nearly emptied their pockets. Some of the buyers have been practically made prisoners and as the same fate awaited them at each stall, many ran away after they were released from the first place they had stopped at. This has been a great annoyance to both Chinese and foreigners who visited the Bazaar. The young ladies have been requested "to be more lenient, as the heat is intense, and both buyers and vendors will be fagged out if too much insistence is displayed."

The 9th instant was the gala day at the Bazaar. His Excellency Viceroy Chang who was accompanied by Admirals Li Tsun and Chun Ping Chik, the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, the Literary Chancellor, Taotai Li Tze Cheun, the Kwong Chan Prefect, and the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates, attended the show, together with their suits, and there was also a very large attendance of ladies.

The reception of the Viceroy at the Bazaar was conducted by over 20 ladies and girls who are the wives and daughters of high officials, gentry and merchants. Mrs. So Pak Kang and Miss Tai, daughter of His Excellency Tai Hung Chi, the present Minister of the Board of Punishment at Peking, went up to receive the Viceroy when he arrived. Miss Tai made a short speech expressing the usual compliments of welcome and recalled in a few words the details of the misery caused by the flood. At the finish of the speech the Viceroy bowed and thanked Miss Tai and Mrs. So Pak Kang and the young ladies for the energy they had displayed to ensure the success of the Bazaar. Miss Chung, daughter of Mr. Han Lin, then presented the Viceroy with a jade Yu Yee official sceptre used when being received in audience by the Emperor and held before the face to avoid looking at His Majesty with the naked eyes, valued at over \$2,000. The girls then presented bouquets to each of the officials, after which the ladies reception committee invited the Viceroy and the officials to take some refreshment.

His Excellency the Viceroy and the officials made a tour round the Bazaar and left. The following are the donations given by the Viceroy and his party:—H.E. the Viceroy \$2,000, Admiral Li Tsun \$1,000, Admiral Chun Ping Chik \$400, Provincial Treasurer Woo \$800, The Literary Chancellor \$300, The Provincial Judge \$200, Taotai Li Tze Cheun \$300, The Salt Commissioner \$500, The Kwong Chan Prefect \$500, and the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates \$200 each. Admiral Li Tsun, besides giving the above donation, also purchased a portrait of Confucius for \$1,000.

The ladies were the largest purchasers of the day; amongst them were Mrs. Lo Chan Shi, mother of Lo Kwan Shek, who paid \$2,000 for an embroidered silk flag presented by the Kwan San Girls School, \$1,000 for a piece of silk embroidery and \$300 for a cup of coffee. Viceroy Chang's portrait was purchased by Mrs. Lai Lew Shi for \$300, and quite a number of ladies paid from \$50 to \$200 for a glass of refreshments. It being Sunday, many Shameen presidents patronized the Bazaar.

The cash sales at the Bazaar on the 10th instant amounted to \$10,173.15 cents which exceeds the cash sales of any previous day. The number of visitors was considerably larger on that

day than on the preceding days. I believe this is due to the gentle hint given by the committee of the Bazaar the other day to the stall-holders.

There were not many fancy prices paid for articles. Mr. Chor Kuan Yeuk bought an embroidered picture for \$1,000 and he also paid the same amount to quench his thirst at the On Lok Aerated water stall. Mr. Chu Shew Yeuk purchased a piece of embroidered silk for \$400. There were numerous purchases ranging from \$5 to \$200. A wealthy Cantonese gentleman presented half the proceeds of the sale of a house to the Bazaar. It is reported that the building is worth several thousands of dollars. On the whole it appears that aerated water and coffee stalls have had the most success.

It appears that Taotai Wen Tsung Yao also accompanied the Viceroy to the Bazaar the other day. Some of the newspapers criticize his meanness. They say that he only went in the Bazaar for a few minutes and purchased a bottle of lemonade for \$5, and left immediately. Being a native of Kwang Tung, and enjoying the reputation of being well provided with funds, it was expected that he would have been amongst the most generous.

The result of the cash sales at the Bazaar on the 11th instant was better than on the previous day, the proceeds being \$12,518.50. Owing to the great success of the Bazaar and the good results of the last two days a circular was issued on that day by the Committee to continue the Bazaar for another day and they were justified in doing so as the cash netted on the 12th was the best out of the eight days' sale. It reached the handsome sum of \$15,258.90.

The Bazaar was again very crowded on the 11th instant and several generous buyers re-appeared on the scene. Mr. So Sing Kue having patronized all the stalls over and over again was at a loss as to what he could purchase when a smart girl of the Kwan Wai School's stall went up to him and offered to sell the sign-board of her stall. Mr. So took it, paid \$1,000, and made for the next stall. Mr. Kong Hung Yan (Han Lin) wrote three pairs of scrolls at the Bazaar which were immediately purchased by Messrs. Chor Foon Yeuk, Li Chew Fan and Pang Hew Fu who paid \$400, \$300 and \$200 respectively. Mr. Ho Man Leong purchased a Bible from one of the stalls for \$400. Viceroy Chang's portrait was again put up for sale and fetched \$600. Mr. Lo Kwan Shek being the purchaser. Mr. Luk Hon Chau, son of a Singapore millionaire, paid \$2,500 for a bottle of soda water, and Mrs. Wong King Tong paid \$500 for a bottle of lemonade at the On Lok aerated water stall. The Viceroy presented a tablet to the latter stall for the success they have achieved at the Bazaar.

A curious incident occurred on that day. In the morning two of the stallholders of the Bazaar passed the Tsa Heung Sat tea shop at Pak Hing Bridge. The proprietor of the shop shouted out to them, "Come in our shop and sell something for us before going to the Bazaar," and wound up by uttering a lot of filthy language concerning them. A man named Poon Pui Sheung alias Fat Poon who was taking tea at the tea shop also joined in and used abusive language to the young ladies. Four Bazaar detectives happened to pass the place at the same time and reported the disgraceful matter to the Committee who immediately issued circulars exhorting the public to boycott the tea shop. Poon Pui Sheung will have occasion to regret his behaviour as the people are greatly incensed against him and the whole Canton press is writing uncomplimentary articles about him.

There were many prominent buyers on the 12th instant. Mr. Chan Yuk Sang purchased an embroidered picture of the flood misery from the Hakot Stall for \$1,800. A tablet which was presented to the Kwan Wai Stall by Mr. Chew Chun Hung was bought by Mr. Mak Sew Pung for \$1,000. Mr. Luk Hon Chau paid \$1,000 for a small piece of silk embroidery. Mr. So Sing Kue, who took a fancy to a scroll bearing the characters for "on behalf of the distressed" paid \$1,000 to the stall and, to show his appreciation of Confucius' portrait which was hung up in another stall, he donated \$1,000. Mr. Wong King Hut purchased a dragon flag for \$700. Mr. Kong Hung Yan again wrote several pairs of scrolls in the Bazaar. The highest price paid for a pair was \$500. Mr. Li Chew Fan being the purchaser. Quite a

number of men and women paid \$300 and \$400 for small articles. The total number of tickets sold for admission into the Bazaar during the eight days was 23,666, which realized \$12,283.9. The unsold articles will be put up for public auction at the Bazaar to-morrow.

It is reported that the Viceroy intends to present the value of the jade sceptre to the relief funds.

The largest buyers at the Bazaar during the eight days are Mr. So Sing Kue \$13,000, Mr. Kong Hung Yan (Han Lin) \$6,000, Messrs. Luk Hon Chau and Lo Kwan Shek \$6,000, each. The Kwan Wan Girls School stall sold over \$25,000 worth of articles and the Ha Kot Girls School above \$9,000. The total amount of cash sales during the eight days was about \$80,000. On the 13th instant the Committee reported that they have collected \$15,000 of the credit sales, and donations. I think the proceeds of the eight days, including donations, will amount to about \$160,000. The committee and stall holders of the Bazaar really deserve high praise for the excellent work done by them especially as this is the first Bazaar of the kind held in China.

The Canton Flood Relief Society has deputed Mr. Cha Yan Luk to represent them at the Macao Flood Fund Bazaar which will open to-morrow. Mr. Cha has taken with him to Macao over 30 cases of articles presented from the Cantonese people.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 6th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

His Excellency Chang Chi Tung, Chief Superintendent of the above railway, has cabled to the President here to dismiss many supernumerary employees of the Company. He is also sending several special deputies to Canton to have a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Company.

ABOLITION OF MANCHU COURT.

The Board of Punishment has wired to the local authorities to abolish the Manchu Court which was established for the exclusive purpose of trying cases in which Manchus and Bannermen were involved. Henceforth all cases will be tried by the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates.

SEARCH FOR FIRE ARMS.

The Waiwupu has telegraphed to I. M. Customs here stating that in future all seizures of firearms above four pieces and four cartridges will be considered as an important seizure and a serious offence. They request the Customs Authorities to make rigid search for firearms.

OBSERVATORY FOR CANTON.

Owing to the great destruction of property and loss of life in the recent typhoon H.E. Viceroy Chang has given instructions to the Commissioner of Customs here to establish an Observatory and erect three stations in the Harbour for hoisting typhoon signals to warn the public of approaching typhoons.

I.M. CUSTOMS TRAINING COLLEGE.

Out of 286 candidates who went in for the preliminary examination for admission into the I.M. Customs Training College at Peking only 80 of them passed the first part of the examination and I have great pleasure in reporting that about half the number who passed are students from Hongkong (colleges and schools). The second part of the preliminary examination will commence on the 11th instant.

August 7th.

CANTON VICEROY'S SON.

Last month His Excellency Viceroy Chang wrote a letter to his son Mr. Chang Man Yin, who is Superintendent of the Ta Ching Bank in Tientsin, in which His Excellency related the serious disaster caused by the flood. Mr. Chang Man Yin, after reading his father's letter, immediately remitted one month's salary and a sum of \$5,000. He also got the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Chan Hon Po, to subscribe \$5,000 towards the Flood Fund. Mr. Chang Man Yin writes that he is starting a Flood Fund in Tientsin and will not charge anything for remitting to Canton the funds collected.

STEAMER REFLOATED.

The French Wuchow liner "Tung Kong" which sank in the vicinity of the ocean steamers anchorage in the late typhoon has been refloated by the I.M. Customs. The owners of the vessel are Hongkong merchants and could not undertake the refloating themselves as the price demanded by the contractors was too high. The Customs have done the work themselves at the expiration of the notice given to the owners, as the wreck was a constant danger to the shipping.

August 8th.

PRACTICALLY NO SILVER RESERVE.

The Provincial paper money in circulation at present represents subsidiary coins and is at a big discount (about 10 per cent). It is stated that there are about seven million dollars of these notes in circulation. Recently the Government has been endeavouring to enforce the circulation of the new dollar notes and seeking at the same time some means of raising the value of the subsidiary coins and notes to par. The Viceroy placed this difficult proposition in the hands of the Bureau of Local Affairs suggesting that the Bureau should call in some of the subsidiary coin notes and replace them by the dollar notes but owing to the high premium demanded for the latter the difficulties in the way are considerable.

I think that this state of affairs arises out of the enormous amount of these notes in circulation, against which there is practically no silver reserve, and the Government would no doubt be placed in an embarrassing situation if only one third of the notes were presented to be cashed.

August 12th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY—FOREIGN LOAN THREATENED.

It is reported that H. E. Chang Chi Tung has sent many telegrams to the Railway Company instructing them to collect the second instalment of the Railway shares and that if the Directors should delay in doing so the Central Government will take back the line, raise the necessary funds from foreign countries and itself construct the Kwang Tung section of the line. This section of the line, he added, is one of the most important lines in China and he intends personally to visit Canton and Liang Hu in the autumn to inquire into the complications.

CHINESE DOCTOR CHARGED WITH "PROFESSIONAL INCOMPETENCY."

Yesterday a Chinese Doctor named Luk Pak Yu was arrested on a charge of professional incompetency. The complainant is a wealthy Cantonese, named Lo Ki Wong, who resides in the Western suburbs. Lo deposed in Court that he sent for doctor Luk to attend to his 13-year-old daughter who was slightly indisposed on the 10th instant. Doctor Luk, after feeling the girl's pulses, declared that she was suffering from diphtheria. He wrote out a prescription and left. Shortly after Miss Lo took the medicine, she began to vomit and had several convulsions with almost fatal results. Mr. Lo seeing the precarious condition of his daughter immediately sent for the doctor again who on arrival prescribed some counteracting medicine. The purpose of the first medicine, it is stated, was to cool the blood while the second was a very strong tonic. Lo, however, did not give the second medicine to his daughter but gave her instead some "lizard powder" which had been recommended as a panacea by a friend. After taking a dose of the powder she recovered.

At the trial of the case a doctor from one of the Government Hospitals was called and gave evidence regarding the two prescriptions. He stated that the medicine on the first prescription was the proper medicine for curing diphtheria and when taken would produce the effects stated by the complainant, as in diphtheria cases it was necessary to clear the wind pipes and all the tubes of the lungs so as to prevent them from being choked by phlegm and other matter. But the medicine subsequently prescribed could not be administered to a diphtheria patient. If the girl had taken the second medicine it might have killed her. The magistrate ordered Doctor Luk's signboard to be immediately taken down, and suspended him from further practice, threatening severe punishment if this injunction is disobeyed.

THE RECENT TYPHOON.

Shortly after the late disastrous typhoon Viceroy Chang memorialized the Throne giving full details of the damage done and the number of lives lost. Yesterday His Excellency received a cabled decree acknowledging receipt of the memorial and expressing the great sympathy of the Throne. The decree requested the Viceroy to secure the co-operation of all civil and military officials to relieve the sufferers and not to look upon it as a slight affair.

ANOTHER REBELLION IN KWANGSI.

Telegrams were received by the local authorities and merchants here yesterday that the soldiers under Colonel Chang Tsan Tak at Kong How, in Kwangsi, have shot the Colonel and rebelled. It is reported that the Colonel is dead. The rebels have captured Kong How and other towns. The Military officials in Kwangsi have cabled for reinforcements as the soldiers in that vicinity are inadequate to cope with the rising. Colonel Chang was formerly a merchant in Kwangsi. He offered his services to ex-Viceroy Shum. He captured the notorious Kwangsi rebel chief, Luk Ah Fat, and was made a colonel for his bravery and military ability. Admiral Li Tsun left this morning with a body of troops for Wuchow.

It is reported here that ex-Marshal Sou is likely to return to Kwangsi shortly. There has been trouble in that province ever since his departure and Viceroy Chang, in a recent memorial to the Throne, stated that Sou is the only man capable of keeping that Province quiet. Ex-Marshal Sou was degraded and banished during Viceroy Shum's régime.

August, 13th.

TYPHOON WARNING STATIONS.

The merchants at Fat Shan have petitioned to Viceroy Chang for permission to arrange for typhoon warning stations in that town. They also request His Excellency to communicate with His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong asking the latter to cable all typhoon warnings to Canton so that they may warn the public by hoisting signals and firing guns announcing the approach of typhoons.

THE NOTORIOUS PIRATE CHIEF.

Recently the notorious pirate chief, Luk Lun Ching, sent many letters to both foreign and Chinese firms in Canton demanding large sums of money and threatening reprisals if they did not pay up the sums demanded. It is reported that the International Banking Corporation and Messrs. A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd. have also received similar letters.

A few days ago the manager of Kwong Chi Koon, one of the largest drug shops here received a letter from Luk demanding a sum of \$20,000. The manager paid no attention to the note received. On the following day a man named Ng Chek had the audacity to call personally at the shop and asked if the manager had received Luk's letter and demanded a reply.

The "fokis" not knowing anything about it replied that the manager was out. Ng told them to inform their taipan that he had called for a reply and calmly left the shop. The shop has sent a petition to the Viceroy reporting the matter and requesting protection.

IMPORTANT SEIZURE OF EXPLOSIVES.

It is reported that on the 10th instant the I. M. Customs officers here made a seizure of 240 lbs. of dynamite and 2,000 percussion caps which were hidden in one of the life boats on board the S.S. "Heung Shan" and that the Commissioner has reported the seizure to the Viceroy.

DEATH OF A RISING OFFICIAL.

It is reported that Toatai Yew Sew Shu died in Loongchow, Kwangsi Province on the 8th instant. He was acting Nam Hoi Magistrate during Ex-Viceroy Shum's régime and owing to his ability and knowledge of the Ta Ching laws, Viceroy Chang made him his Chief Chinese Secretary and Deputy Superintendent of Police last year, shortly afterwards promoting him to the Taotai of the Tai Ping and Yan Shun Prefectures in Kwangsi. All the officials here looked upon Toatai Yew as one of the brightest men in the southern service and deeply regret his unexpected death.

[14th August.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.

A few days ago Taotai Li Ming Sum sent the munificent sum of \$40,000 to the Kwong Chau Prefect as a donation to the flood relief fund. The Prefect has reported Taotai-Li's generosity to the Viceroy.

CLOSING OF OPIUM DENS.

It is reported that the Tartar General has given instructions to the military officers to close down all the opium dens in the Banner-men District here within one week. The new opium law states that once an opium house is closed it cannot be reopened. This law will gradually diminish the number of opium dens.

15th August.

EX-VICEROY SHUM DENOUNCED.

Recently a censor in Peking memorialized the Throne alleging that Ex-Viceroy Shum Chun Heun, while he was in the Liang Kwang Provinces, was obstinate, haughty, pertinacious and cruel, and that on account of his degrading a large number of capable officials the Two Kwang Provinces have been ever since in effervescence. In consequence of the above allegations the Throne instructed Viceroy Chang to investigate as to whether there is any truth regarding these statements. H. E. Chang replied that there is no substantial proof.

REFUND OF PENSIONS.

Several leading Bannermen here have suggested that to allay the bad feeling against them on account of the drawing of regular pensions from the Government, they should refund to the Government the funds thus received. Most of them are, however, too poor to do so. It is said that there are over 2,000,000 Bannermen in China.

SPECIAL DELEGATION.

The Board of War at Peking has cabled to Viceroy Chang that they have deputed General and Commander-in-Chief H. E. Chang Wai Chi as special delegate to proceed to Kwang Tung Province to inspect the troops. He is expected to arrive here next month.

NEW DEPARTMENT CREATED.

The Central Government has recently instructed all the provinces to form a new department called the Bureau of Industries. Mr. Chan Mong Tsang, the present Kwong Chau Prefect, has been promoted to the rank of Taotai and is appointed Taotai of Industries.

CONCERT AT KOWLOON.

A highly successful Promenade Concert was given by the Kowloon Cricket Club on their grounds at Kowloon on August 15th. The promoters of the Concert may congratulate themselves upon an exceptionally large attendance, practically every chair being occupied before the concert commenced. The grounds were very prettily decorated, the long approach to the Club House, in front of which the platform was arranged, being an avenue of Chinese lanterns, while four large arc lights lit up the scene with excellent effect.

The Band of the 13th Rajputs, under the able conductorship of their energetic Bandmaster, Mr. Coke, did extremely well, the Scotch selections gaining especial applause. Owing to the stillness of the night the voices of the singers were heard to much greater advantage than is usually the case in an open air concert, and that the audience fully appreciated their performance was shown by the number of encores demanded. Miss Helen Thorne (Mrs. Coke) was at her best in selections from the "Country Girl" and "The Gondoliers" with band accompaniment, while Senor Torras was deservedly encored after his song the "Toreador." Mention must be made of the duet by Mrs. Kaw and Mr. Ayris which was excellently rendered, while Mr. Hutchinson, whose voice carried extremely well, recited examples of amusing speeches by itinerant Cockney quacks, to the great delight of the audience. But, where each performer did so well it is impossible to single out any for especial praise.

Refreshments were dispensed during the evening, and a flashlight photograph was taken. The Cricket Club are heartily to be congratulated on a very successful evening and a record attendance. The full programme is given below:

Selection... "Lilts and Dances o' Braid Scotland"
Band of the 13th Rajputs
Song Mr. F. T. Chapple
Song "The Message," Mr. L. Broughall
Selection..... "The Country Girl"
Band of the 13th Rajputs
Song "Under the Deodar," Miss Helen Thorne
Recitation..... Mr. Hutchinson
Song "Toreador," Senor Torras
Song Mr. Benedetto
Duet..... Mr. E. B. Ayris and Mrs. Kew
INTERVAL.
Selection "The Mikado," Band of the 13th Rajputs
PART II.
Song "Down the Vale," Miss Parke
Song Mr. E. B. Ayris
Song "My ain Folk," Mrs. L. Broughall
Song Mr. Benedetto
Selection..... "The Gondoliers,"
Band of the 13th Rajputs
Song "Sparkling Eyes," Miss Helen Thorne
Song..... Mr. P. W. Goldring
Song..... Senor Torras
God save the King.

AT A CHINESE THEATRE.

A EUROPEAN'S IMPRESSIONS.

To the unenlightened Occidental a Chinese theatrical performance suggests little more than the beating of drums, the clanging of cymbals or the weird screeching sounds from a two stringed fiddle, the intervals between the noises filled with the high-pitched falsetto voices of the actors, accompanied by posturing more or less intelligible. But those who seek to understand the unusual and the strange will feel amply rewarded for their investigations by the vista which is opened to them of Chinese life and the view which it gives of the drama in evolution. A Chinese theatrical performance has not perhaps the movement and picturesque scenic effects of a modern drama, but it possesses an interest and a charm of its own. There is practically no scenery but much more is expected from the artistes and the fact that they can rise to powerful and thrilling situations with a realism and dramatic effect worthy of the best tragedians of the European or American stage to day speaks volumes for the histrionic skill of the performers.

Generally speaking, the drama in China is hardly so far advanced as it was in the Elizabethan era in England. By that time scenery had been introduced, but in the Flowery Land there is still an absence of scenery. Those who have any knowledge of theatricals know what a terrible handicap to the performer that must mean. Furthermore it limits the selection of plays, for of course every play that is written even in China has to be produced on a stage which has no external aids to the understanding. When I speak of plays written in China it will be understood that there are no playwrights or dramatists in the Celestial Empire as we understand them, and most of the plays which are presented are historical productions, or perhaps I should say they are representations of historical events. That being so, their significance is as a rule easily appreciated.

Perhaps I had better say a word or two about what is seen on the stage before I make any reference to the artists themselves. For instance you may see a man appear on the stage. He is seen to stoop and walk a few steps. That means he is coming out of a chair. Or he might indulge in something like a jump. This would represent his leaving a carriage. Perhaps he comes on the stage rapidly, whirls round two or three times, and leaps. The intelligent would see in this a rider on a prancing steed, from which he dismounts to tell the audience who he is. It does not follow that he makes a formal introduction, but his speech and action soon establish his identity, and that accomplished, the auditor is able to realise his importance in the play. But unlike the Western theatre, the Chinese stage is not reserved for the actor. The orchestra have a place there, but what seems most incongruous of all is to see coolies, not over cleanly, squatting on chairs or stools in easy attitudes, occasionally obtruding between the audience and some resplendently dressed figure on the stage. These coolies are the scene shifters, the supernumeraries who in other lands are behind the scenes, and though they are too well trained to impede

the artists they do not strike the Western eye as being in their proper place. Moreover their scenic effects, such as a table or a chair, are always lying handy, suggesting a store room rather than a stage.

As to the play itself, much might be written, but I have deemed it better merely to give the impressions of a European spectator. Before doing so, it might be as well to explain that plays are roughly divided into two kinds—the historical or classical play and the comic or tragic built on events of the present day. It is doubtless a sign of the evolution through which China is passing that performances of the latter sort are growing in popularity, and though they may include much that is trashy and not worth reproduction the change is bound to have some enlightening influence, for, in China as in the West, the stage wields a powerful influence for good or ill. Theatricals have been a great national amusement of the Chinese, and the representation of historical plays have made the common people acquainted with notable events in national life and have given them a knowledge of the great men who have left their impression on the nation. While much good has followed from these productions, they have also, it is to be feared, been responsible for creating a distrust and dislike of the foreigner. But this is a digression. I do not wish to moralise. Rather let us try to understand the theatre as it is. The first impression is that there is a great deal of unnecessary noise, but it is noticeable that the musicians never drown the words of the actor. Then the visitor will perhaps note that no little attention is paid to dress. In most cases the costumes are exceedingly elaborate, especially in historic productions, and, what is equally significant, the enunciation of those taking leading parts is usually very clear. There is rather more speech making than a Western audience would like, but the eyes are used very cleverly, and eating and drinking never seem to be overlooked.

The play I remember most vividly was that in which a Chinese general was sent to quell a rebellion in the North. He was accompanied by his two sons, whom he sent out reconnoitring one day, and while they were discussing the situation a village maiden overheard their conversation. They of course discovered her, and one of the sons became so enamoured of her that he decided to go home with the girl to her mother's house. His brother reasoned with him and tried to rouse him to a sense of his duty but all to no purpose, and while the damsel and her lover went off he returned to his father. The General, on learning of his son's dereliction, was furious and set out to find him with his soldiers. He arrived at the house where the girl and her mother lived but the women on hearing of the approach of the army hid the young man and declared to the irate father that they knew nothing of his whereabouts. However a search was instituted and at length the wayward youth was discovered. The General ordered the women to be put to death for their deceit, while the son was also punished. The scene where the damsel on the hillside overheard the discussion of the two brothers was represented by the men standing talking face to face and a chair being placed at their side the girl stepped on it and looked wise. Is not there something delightfully quaint about such picture? But more interesting scenes were to follow. When the young man was concealed two coolies rose from their seats, held up a piece of wood, under which he passed. The youth was supposed to be hidden. It did require a little stretch of imagination to realise that the man sauntering out behind the scenes was out of sight. A mild shock followed when the coolies, having no further use for the wood, threw it with a bang on the floor. By and bye the soldiers appeared and as they drew near the place of concealment the wood was brought out and the young man stood under it, the searchers meanwhile passing all round him. Each time they passed beyond him the wood was dropped and the hidden man stood at ease. But at last he was discovered, and the coolies, whose duty it was to hold up the wood retired to take their rest, leaving the youth to face his angry father.

That is typical of most historical plays, and it will explain in part why Chinese theatricals are so unintelligible to the Western auditor who

is not accompanied by a friend to explain. But with the light of understanding thrown on those they become very interesting. On the other hand they are more protracted than on the Western stage, and the patience of the Chinese is exemplified by the calmness with which they will sit out the longest performance.

Though the Chinese enjoy theatricals so much and actors are usually well paid it is surprising to find the contempt with which the artists are regarded. They are prohibited from entering certain professions and can never be anything more than actors. The restrictions also apply to their children. Hitherto women have not been allowed on the stage in China—the female parts being taken by boys, but lately actresses have made their appearance in Shanghai and Hongkong, and it is doubtful if the change makes for good. There are four classes of actors in China. The first are those who represent the royal personages or mandarins. They must have a distinguished bearing and be able to speak without a fault. The second take the role of common women, the third impersonate ladies, and the fourth are the funny men or clowns. Special training is required before an actor can hope to command attention, and though the training is not on the lines adopted by Western professionals it is none the less severe. Perhaps the most arduous is that through which the actor who represents a lady has to pass, but this is recognised by the larger salary which is his. He draws more money than any of the others.

In conclusion, I would advise readers who have not visited a Chinese theatre to do so, but not without being accompanied by an intelligent guide, and they will doubtless come away with a higher opinion of Chinese theatricals than most people possess.

THE HONGKONG TRADE MARK APPEAL CASE.

J. ULLMANN & CO. V. LEUBA FRERES.

The following report appears in a London paper:—

This was an appeal from a judgment of the Supreme Court of Hongkong of January 19, 1907, affirming a decision of Chief Justice Piggott in an action brought by the respondents, who are watchmakers at Fleurier, in Switzerland, against the appellants, who are watchmakers at Chaux-de-Fonds, for the alleged infringement of trade-marks on watches sold in China.

Mr. E. H. Sharp (K.C. of the Hongkong Bar) and Mr. A. C. Nesbitt appeared for the appellants; Mr. F. O. Lawrence, K.C., and Mr. D. M. Kerly for the respondents.

The arguments were heard recently before a board composed of Lord Robertson, Lord Atkinson, Lord Collins, and Sir Arthur Wilson, when judgment was reserved.

Sir Arthur Wilson, in now delivering (for Lord Robertson) their Lordships' judgment, said they were of opinion that the respondents—the plaintiffs—ought to have been non-suited for want of title, and that the appeal must, therefore, be allowed. The grounds of that conclusion might be very shortly stated. The action was for breach of trade-mark in Hongkong, and the trade-marks in question originated with persons named Bovet and were used by them in their business at Hongkong as dealers in watches. That Hongkong business belonged now, not to the respondents, but to a Mme. Bovet, and the relation in which the respondents stood to Mme. Bovet was simply that of manufacturers to a customer. Accordingly the only watches which they sold at Hongkong they sold to Mme. Bovet, and with those sales to her their business in Hongkong began and ended. It resulted that the only person who could be deceived, so far as they were concerned, was Mme. Bovet, and that was not their case at all. Their case consisted in ignoring the contractual relation (of manufacturers to dealer) by which they were connected with, and were separated from, Mme. Bovet, and identifying themselves with the trade, which belonged to her and with which, by family as well as by business interest, they were connected. With the trade-marks themselves they had a much more direct connexion, for they

held an assignment from the trustee in bankruptcy of some former Bovets, which, if paper would do, apart from business, might give them a good enough title. But it was trite law (now embodied in statute, as regarded registered trade-marks) that an assignment of trade-mark, without the business, conferred no effective right. It had been suggested, indeed, by the Chief Justice that the following words in the assignment supported the title, "avec l'entreprise dont elles [the trade-marks] servent à distinguer les produits." But those general words occurred in an assignment executed in Switzerland and must be applied by evidence to Hongkong; and, unfortunately, the evidence proves that in Hongkong the business, on the incidents of which and injuries to which the respondents relied, was, *de facto*, not theirs and was not carried on for them. About those facts there was no ambiguity or doubt at all. Mr. Heerman, of Messrs. Gaupp and Co., who acted for the plaintiffs, on the one hand, and Mme. Bovet, on the other, were perfectly explicit on the point. It was argued for the respondents that the trial had been so conducted that point of title was not now open to the appellants. But, on the pleadings, the appellants expressly stated that they did not admit the averments of title and then lay by. In such a situation a plaintiff, if he ignored the question, did so at his peril, for the defence put him to prove his title. Fortunately however the matter was not left to be determined on a mere question of pleading, for the evidence at the trial and the additional evidence taken during the hearing of the appeal placed the question on a clear footing of ascertained fact. It was in the end courageously maintained for the respondents that they, in their quality of manufacturers, had sufficient interest to sue the action. No authority supported that contention, and it was against principle. It was quite true that the respondents were interested in the success of Mme. Bovet's business, but that could never put them in her shoes in vindicating her rights against wrongdoers. Their Lordships would humbly advise his Majesty that the appeal ought to be allowed, the judgments below discharged, with costs, and the plaintiff non-suited. The respondents must pay the costs of the appeal.

HONGKONG.

The Tung Wa Flood Relief Fund now amounts to \$320,000.

Captain Herbert Lyon has been appointed Commodore at Hongkong in place of Rear-Admiral Stokes. The new commodore has been in command of H.M.S. "Formidable" since January of last year.

A Chinese farmer near An Tan in the New Territory was tilling his land with bullock and plough on August 12th when he was struck by lightning and killed instantly. The bullock was uninjured.

The total receipts into the Treasury from January 1st to May 31st amounted to \$8,081,315.62, while the payments out totalled \$8,344,163.93. The payments therefore exceed the receipts by \$262,848.31.

We note that the Consul for France at Hongkong, in a dispatch to the Governor-General of Indo-China, gives \$5,000,000 as the estimate of the damage done by the recent typhoon, three-fifths being for damage to house property.

On Aug. 12th Mr. Percy Langley died from typhoid fever after a very short illness in the hospital. Deceased, who was a clerk in the service of the Dock Company at Aberdeen, was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and great sympathy is expressed for his widow, Inspector Langley (his brother), and other surviving relatives.

Mr. Amos P. Wilder, the American Consul-General at Hongkong, is a guest at the Malacanang Palace, Manila, and a Manila paper states that he "will take a trip through the islands before continuing his voyage to Europe en route to the United States." We understand, however, that Mr. Wilder will make a somewhat prolonged stay at Hongkong before proceeding home. He has simply gone to the Philippines for a six weeks' holiday, and has no present intention of going home.

The case in which two Europeans, Messrs Saunders and Melvin, charge a boy, formerly in their employ, with theft was again remanded on Aug. 12. Since the prisoner had been liberated on bail complainants had discovered in a meat safe a pile of pawn tickets representing articles which he had stolen from the house. Fresh charges were preferred against the prisoner yesterday.

Mr. J. J. Leiria was on the 8th inst. entertained by the members of the Club Lusitano to a dinner to commemorate his promotion from Vice-Consul to Consul for Portugal. Mr. J. L. Alves presided. The tables were decorated with the national colours, and giant palms and greenery effectively adorned the dining hall, while Machado's band discoursed music during the evening.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st July, 1908, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, is as under:—

BANKS.	AVERAGE SPECIE IN AMOUNT.	RESERVE.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China ...	\$ 3,668,772	\$ 2,800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation...	15,023,636	10,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited ...	126,914	45,000
Total...	\$18,819,322	12,845,000

Information has been received by the Colonial Secretary from the Commissioner of Customs, Lappa, that the body of a European was washed ashore at Tungsho, off Ladrone Islands, on the 2nd inst. The body was that of a man of about 28 or 30 years of age, muscular and well developed, and measuring about 5ft. 8in. or 5ft. 9in. in height. The wearing apparel consisted of a closely chequered blue and white suit and pair of white trousers such are frequently worn by engineers when on duty. The head and face were too much battered and decomposed to allow of recognition. The body has been buried by the officer in charge of the Tungsho station behind the old fort on that Island.

We regret to record the death of Mr. W. G. Stackwood, who for over three years was naval ordnance officer at Hongkong. He was expecting to return home shortly, and about a week ago was on the point of leaving for a holiday trip in Japan when he was taken ill and succumbed on Monday night. The funeral took place on August 11th at the Happy Valley with Naval and Military honours, the coffin being borne on a gun carriage and a squad of blue-jackets and soldiers being present. Rear-Admiral Stokes was the chief representative of the Navy and Colonel Lambert was the chief representative of the Army, while many brother officers of the deceased in the naval yard and others were among the large following of mourners. The Rev. M. Longridge conducted the last rites. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Stackwood in her bereavement.

The remains of the late Mr. Percy Langley were interred in the Happy Valley cemetery on August 14th, the Rev. F. T. Johnson conducting the burial service. The funeral was largely attended by members of the Dock staff, including Mr. R. Mitchell, chief manager, and Mr. W. Wilson, chief manager at Kowloon, by the Masons of the United Service Lodge of which deceased had been a member for eight years; also by numerous members of the local police force, including Chief Inspector Baker and Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson. The coffin was carried to the place of interment by six of deceased's former comrades, sergeants of police. Mr. Percy Langley, who was 32 years of age, joined the local police force in 1906. In 1900 he purchased his discharge and took up a position as clerk at the Aberdeen Dock, retaining it until his death. During the early months of last year, deceased who was suffering from diabetes, was ordered home, but returned to the Colony in April. Yesterday week he went to hospital suffering from the same complaint; other complications set in, and he died at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Deceased leaves a wife, who is lying dangerously ill in the Matilda Hospital, and a child, who is being cared for by Inspector Langley of Kowloon.

REVIEWS.

Shooting in China. By T. R. JERNIGAN (Methodist Publishing House, Shanghai).

Though Mr. Jernigan's shooting experience has been chiefly in the Yangtse Valley there are many keen sportsmen in South China who will welcome the publication of this volume. Much valuable advice will be found in its 30 odd pages which will be of service in any part of China, while the information given respecting the small and big game in China makes the book of permanent value. To give some idea of the sport afforded in the Yangtse Valley the author quotes the following authenticated bag:—"At Wuhu, 2 guns, 21½ days' shooting, 1,316 heads, made up as follows:—889 pheasants, 27 deer, 254 teal, 24 duck, 26 woodcocks, 32 hares, 18 partridges, 9 geese, 32 snipes, 1 bittern, 2 foxes, 1 wild cat, 1 ground hog." In the Hangchow district it would seem that sport is not a whit less good. There were bagged there in 1903 "by 5 guns in 14 days shooting and three guns during 7 days shooting, 640 heads, made up of 334 pheasants, 115 partridges, 89 quails, 29 snipes, 15 woodcocks, 11 hares, 2 deer, 1 plover, 2 foxes, 1 cornucopia, 1 civet-cat, 1 wild cat, and 1 coon dog." This must be acknowledged to be a most satisfactory bag, and one that for variety it would be difficult to surpass. The illustrations might have been better, but imperfect as they are, they form an acceptable addition to the book. Mr. H. T. Wade, who was an early day sportsman and one of the best informed on the subject, has contributed some twenty pages of reminiscences which add considerably to the interest of the volume. Books on sport in China are so few that sportsmen in the South as well as in the North of China will gladly welcome this addition to the literature on the subject. Our copy of the book was received through Messrs W. Brewer & Co., Ltd.

The Trade and Administration of the Chinese Empire, by H. B. MORSE. Kelly and Walsh Limited.

It should be sufficient merely to announce the publication of such a book as this by the Statistical Secretary of the Customs to ensure for it a demand from every man who takes a serious interest in China. Mr. H. B. Morse has spent thirty-three years of his life in the service of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China and his qualifications for writing on the subject of the trade and administration of China are indisputable. In the preface the author explains that the book is intended to portray the present state of the Chinese Empire, with such record of the past as will show by what process of evolution the existing state has been reached. The first two chapters on Chinese History have been written by the Rev. F. L. Hawks Potts, D.D., and we have no hesitation in endorsing Mr. Morse's remark that Dr. Hawks Potts' task of condensing the history of forty centuries into as many pages has been done in a very judicious way. Nor have we anything but the highest praise for the concise, lucid and interesting manner in which the rest of the book has been written. The other chapters treat of the Government, the Revenue and Expenditure, the Currency, Weights and Measures, Extraterritoriality, the Provinces and the Treaty Ports, Foreign Trade, Internal Trade, Opium, the Inspectorate of Customs and the Post Office. The book is illustrated by maps, diagrams and several very interesting half tone views.

There is a wealth of information in this work which is not to be found in so accessible a form in any other book on China that we are acquainted with, and we have the greatest pleasure in recommending the volume as the most useful book on China that has been published for many years.

Owing to the heavy consumption of tobacco and cigarettes in China, His Highness Prince Pu Ting, President of the Ministry of Agriculture, has proposed that the Government should establish a Government Tobacco Monopoly Bureau in Peking, the object of which shall be to improve the growth of tobacco within the Empire and push its sale. The matter is at present under consideration.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th August.—The market is steady and the prices are the same as last reported.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.90	to	\$4.95
" Round, Good quality ..	5.05	to	5.10
" Long	5.20	to	5.25
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	4.70	to	4.75
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	5.10	to	5.15
" White, " ..	5.40	to	5.45
" Fine Cargo	5.80	to	5.85

SUGAR.

YOKOHAMA, 30th July.—The situation has slightly improved and the importation of foreign produce is slowly commencing again.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, August 14th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$880,000	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$910,930	do.
Malwa Older	\$940,960	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$970,990	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$500	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$570	do.
Patna New	\$1070	per chest.
Patna Old		do.
Benares New	\$995	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

Amoy, 6th August.—The import of opium from 25th July to 31st July was: Patna, nil; Benares, 55; Persian, 8; Malwa, nil; Szechuan, 12; Yunnan, 12; Kiangsu, nil.

Foochow, 31st July. Arrivals, sales, stocks and quotations are as under:—

Stock on 23rd July, 1908

Malwa chests	23
Patna chests	8
Benares chests	5
Persian chests	54
Total	90

Imported during the week

Malwa chests	41
Patna chests	12
Benares chests	8
Persian chests	34
Total	95

Sales during the week

Malwa chest	34
Patna chests	7
Benares chests	6
Persian chests	27
Total	74

Estimated Stocks

Malwa chests	30
Patna chests	13
Benares chests	7
Persian chests	61
Total	111

Quotations

Malwa chests, new \$1,000, old \$1,030 a 1,040
Patna chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,080 a 1,110
Benares chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,050 a 1,100
Persian chests, \$860 a \$9.15, paper.

FLOUR.

FOOCHOW, 31st July.—Imported since 1st June, 1908, as per last statement 49,571 bags. 1907—71,195 bags. Imported during the week 3100 bags. 1907—78,594 bags. Total 52,671 bags. 1907—total 149,789 bags.

KEROSENE.

FOOCHOW, 31st July.—Imported since 1st June, 1908, as per last statement 786,831 gallons. 1907—1,383,314 gallons.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 6th August, 1908, states:—The interval has been rather broken into by the usual Autumn Bank Holidays, which were most opportune and welcome during the intensely hot spell which still continues. The absence of Exchange quotations naturally has a very important bearing on all transactions and so long as they are not available business is more or less at a standstill. Short sea trips to the Coast Ports or Japan have been very freely availed of. In this way the traditions of Manchester have been kept up, and it is pretty

certain trade has not suffered thereby. Beyond the fact that the Auctions have figures as strongly as usual in the week's doings, and clearances of goods have kept on a fairly liberal scale, there is not much to say regarding our market. No fresh transactions, to our knowledge, have been entered into, and holders look with scorn at the offers that are made for staple goods in stock. The tendency of the dealers now is to assume an aggrieved air, attributing all the misfortunes that have befallen them to the heavy penalties forced on the Country by such little incidents as the Boxer troubles, and expect Importers, who have indented for goods on their account, to bear the greater part of the losses accordingly, as though they had benefited under the indemnities. However, there can be no doubt that a poor excuse is better than none at all still holds good, and it is certain sure that the trade, as represented by the dealers here, is in a very parlous state. Their position is fully realised by the Country merchants, who are evidently determined to squeeze them to the last farthing, while unfortunately the size of the stock here prevents them putting up any reasonable resistance. They are in fact between the "devil and the deep sea," and their position becomes more and more untenable as fresh supplies come along, unburdened by carrying charges. That the situation generally is mending is beyond all dispute, but there is still a great deal of disagreeable liquidation to be gone through of goods that have accumulated during the last two years. There is a good consumptive demand, unquestionably, at a price, but that price is considerably below what Importers have had to pay, or induced their indentors to pay in recent years. The cost of living, and of commodities, has gone up in this Country tremendously, but not so the wage earning capacity of the majority, and thereby their consumptive powers of imported articles are so much curtailed. Legislation, however, is being brought to assist nature in resisting the natural laws of supply and demand and any return to reasonable prices that might have been expected by a bumper cotton crop in the United States is threatened to be counteracted by the new interstate commercial laws, which are anticipated, if they come into force, to effectually put the Pacific Steamer Companies out of business by compelling the Railway Companies to charge prohibitive rates for haulage to the Pacific Coast Ports. A strong protest has been entered and the date of the inception of the new law postponed to the 1st October. Meanwhile, so far as this branch of trade is concerned, it will make no perceptible difference at the moment, but it will be very prejudicial to the Oriental trade generally if the law is carried into effect. Manchester has been enjoying holiday this week, and from the absence of usual telegrams some quarters are evidently prolonging them. There is very little in the way of news concerning the market, which, however, is considerably above the prices ruling here and at which anything could be sold with freedom. The Liverpool market for "spot" Canton has been steadily strengthening, the quotation for Mid-American coming 6.12d. and Egyptian 7.11d. No mention has been made of "futures." The condition of the American Crop on 25th July is reported by the U.S. Government to be 83, but although eight points over last year not very much store is put on it, as the next six or eight weeks are the most critical during the growing period. The Export of Plain Cottons last month from England to Hongkong and China was 31,000,000 yards. Dyed Cottons 9,600,000 yards and Printed Cottons 1,500,000 yards, quite an ample supply of all kinds. From New York there is very little news, in fact only sufficient to show that full prices are still wanted, with no particular pressure to sell. The Cotton quotations there are 9.57 cents September, 9.64 cents October and 9.36 cents December option, the first quotation coming this morning, the others yesterday. As regards the business done we must refer to the Auction particulars for by far the bulk of it. As a matter of fact the only two sales reported to us of private origin are moderate parcels of 8.4lbs. shirtings, namely Green Pah-zu-doo at T. 2.57½ and Silver Sycee at T. 2.87½. There is considerable enquiry for Faney Goods at a price, and some are reported to have changed hands, but at ruinous rates for the most part, though there are exceptional instances. The Auctions have gone with some steadiness as regards the staple makes of Grey and Whites, the latter more especially. Turkey Reds are distinctly firmer, the dealers no doubt realising the better statistical position of these goods, not to mention their intrinsically cheap prices. Fast Black Cotton Italians and Venetians are decidedly firmer, although ridiculously low prices are being offered in some quarters and forced sales are

being made. Woollens.—All makes of these goods have kept steady to firm at the various Auctions (this week, Camlets and Long Ells especially so. The statistical position of the Yarn market is one of the most satisfactory features at present, and is one that was scarcely looked for not many months ago. The curtailed supply of Indian Spinnings has, no doubt, been of great assistance to the local production, which has once more taken heart of grace, one Mill at least going in for night work again to keep pace with the growing demand. The supply of the raw material has been a serious question with some, and the probability of having to shut down owing to the lack of material is staring them in the face. Forward contracts for New Cotton are being made some three taels under present spot quotations we understand.

YARN.

Foochow, 31st July.—Imported since 1st June, 1908, as per last statement 3,058.03 piculs. 1907—4,117.86 piculs. Imported during the week 108.00 piculs Indian.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

Foochow, 31st July. The following settlements have taken place during the week:

Congous.—4,470 Half-chests, viz:—
446..... Half-chests..... Paklum.
1,650..... "..... Panyong.
464..... "..... Suey Kut.
537..... "..... Saryune.
1,085..... "..... Seumoo.
288..... "..... Dust & Broken Leaf.

Souchongs.—2,600 Half-chests.
Scented Teas.—400 Boxes.
Flowery Pekoes.—117 Chests.

The stocks at present comprise 47800 half chests Congou, 14580 half chests Souchong, 1934 half chests Oolong 989 boxes scented tea and 364 chests Pekoe.

Hankow, July 29th.—Business reported since the 2nd inst., is as under:—

	1908.	1907.
Settlements ...	26,614	22,379
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ...	35,000	—

Consisting of the following Teas:—

	1908.	1907.
Ningchows.....	1,579 at Tls. 17.25	at 23.50
Khemuns.....	184 " "	" 28.00
Oopacks.....	996 " "	" 13.50 " 14.25
Oonams.....	10,356 " "	" 13.00 " 16.75
Oofaas.....	11,624 " "	" 13.00 " 18.00
Seangtams.....	709 " "	" 12.90 " 13.25
Ichangs.....	1,166 " "	" 2.825 " 31.00

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding statement of last season, viz, 24th July, 1907:—

	1908.	1907.
HANKOW TEA	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	505,270	352,844
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account...	30,000	—
Stock ...	59,437	21,122

Arrivals ... 594,707 473,966

	1908.	1907.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	177,720	181,020
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account...	5,000	—
Stock ...	18,363	15,405

Arrivals ... 201,083 196,425

Comparative Quotations per picul are as under:—

	1908.	1907.
Ningchow Tls.	15.50 at 100.00	Tls. 16.00 at 100.00
Khemuns	" 21.00 " 67.00	" 18.50 " 74.00
Hohow	" 19.00 " 24.50	" " " "
Kutoans..	" 22.50 " 27.00	" 21.50 " 25.50
Wenchow	" 19.50 " 21.00	" " " "
Oopack ...	" 11.95 " 26.00	" 12.50 " 27.00
Oonam ...	" 12.75 " 28.00	" 12.00 " 28.00
Oonfaa ...	" 13.80 " 36.00	" 14.00 " 35.75
Seangtam	" 12.50 " 18.50	" 12.30 " 17.80
Ichangs...	" 27.00 " 65.00	" 25.00 " 68.00

Hankow Tea Kiukiang.
The export to 25th instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:

Season 1908-1909...	lbs. 8,641,708	lbs. 4,249,741
" 1907-1908...	" 7,852,988	" 5,007,757
" 1906-1907...	" 10,297,767	" 4,837,795

	1908/9	1907/8	1906/7
Via Shanghai,	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
To Great Britain.....	1,732,316	1,998,507	2,684,351
" U. S. & Canada	4,511,201	3,482,563	1,916,272
" Continent	2,442,007	1,959,951	1,594,237
" Russia via North..	81,757	8,320	28,948
" Russia in Europe..	564,099	3,218,511	5,605,688
" Shanghai.....	3,332,184	1,113,975	3,267,131

Direct, 1908,
U. S. 472,576 lbs.
Gr. Britain 3,606,000 "
Continent 367,332 "
Russia in Europe... 5,433,132 "
Russia in Asia ... 18,398,819 "

Direct, 1907, Russia in Europe Russia in Asia
s.s. " Harrova " 897,978 lbs.
s.s. " Canton " 18,277 lbs. 1,003,929 "
s.s. " Driesses " 2,181,700 "
s.s. " Bladimis " 1,555,797 "
s.s. " Eiger " 1201,997 "

Amoy, 31st July.—From June 25th to July 28th the total (Tamsui Oolong) exported from Amoy and Formosa to the United States was 6800,181 lbs, against 6328,989 at the same time last year. To London from June 29th to July 26th there were 264,406 lbs exported as against 118,502 lbs last year. Exports to other places amounted to 19,693 lbs as against 38,504 lbs last year.

SILK.

YOKOHAMA. 30th July.—During the fortnight under review the Market for raw silk has kept fairly steady and prices have changed but little, being at the close practically on the same level as when last writing. The first Reel and Kaked transactions have been put through. No business has been doing in waste silk on account of high quotations from the interior.

Habutai.—Since the last report the market for Kanazawa has been particularly firm, showing an advance of from one to two per cent. There has been no demand whatsoever from Europe and only the usual inquiry for 27 inch goods from America. Quotation for Echizen have maintained the level of last Report, though demand has been chiefly in connection with the fulfilment of July contracts. There has been a better demand from America for 27 inch and 36 inch, but new enquiries for Europe. The rate for Kawanata are firmer all round, especially in 23 and 36 inch. Demand from abroad has been mostly unimportant.

CAMPHOR OIL.

Foochow, 31st July.—Exported since 1st June, 1908, as per last statement 66 piculs, total 66 piculs. 1907—1,616.65 piculs

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 17th August.—There is no market. Quotations are \$85.00 to \$88.00.

Foochow, 31st July.—Exported since 1st June, 1908, as per last statement 1,534.12 piculs, total 1,554.12 piculs. 1907—3,705.95 piculs

JAPAN MARKETS.

YOKOHAMA. 30th July.—Cotton Yarns.—"Gassed"—A small business has been done in the finer counts. Manchester prices are weaker, and local values are unchanged. Cotton Piece Goods.—There is nothing worth mention beyond some improvement in clearances. Victoria Dawns are wanted, but appear to be out of stock, dealers having wisely refrained from contracting at the high rates ruling in the early part of the year. Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—A few enquiries for Summer Serges have been placed, but otherwise conditions are the same as last reported. Textiles Generally.—Further weakness in Manchester appears to deter buyers from operating, and there is very little business passing. Raw Cotton.—Values at home are still above the ideas of spinners in this country. Rice.—No change. Metals.—Though quiet, the market remains firm, and a better feeling for the future is evident. Window Glass.—Business still dull. Kerosine.—Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of July show Standard Oil Co.: Arrivals 140,000 cases and 130,000 units; deliveries 19,000 cases and 5,000 units. Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: arrivals 160,000 units, deliveries 28,000 units. Flour.—Owing to cheap freights, the importation of foreign flour shows a slight improvement. Wheat.—Nothing doing.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer, Nubia, sailed on 12th Aug For Manchester:—225 bales waste silk. For Rotterdam:—25 cases chinaware, 1 case rice paper. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios. For London:—134 bales pieced cocoon, 1 case hats, 11 cases prive effects, 3 cases machinery, 694 packages tea.

HANKOW, July 29th.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 80.00
Do. Seconds	" 87.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour.....	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" 7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	" 8.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 7.60
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 7.70
Jute.....	" 8.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" 10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" 9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	" 11.75
Animal Tallow	" 12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 18.80
Tobacco, Pingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong.....	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" 98.00
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil.....	" 8.50
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 14th August, 1908.—A little more investment enquiry has been noticeable in our market during the past week, but the volume of business transacted has again been small and there is little or no improvement in rates to report. Bar silver in London is quoted at 24½d. and Exchange at 1/9½ T. T. The T. T. rate on Shanghai is 74½

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have firmed up in sympathy with an advance in London to £79/10s. and are wanted locally at \$770 after small sales at the rate. Nationals are unaltered at \$51 with buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$760, \$755 and \$750, and close with probable buyers at the latter rate. Other stocks in this section are unchanged, and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have been taken off the market at \$92½ and \$93, and close with buyers at the former rate. Hongkong have not been dealt in, but are procurable at \$315.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$29 and \$28½ cum the dividend of \$1½ per share for the half-year ended 30th June last, paid on the 11th instant, and close steady at \$27½ ex dividend with probable buyers. Star Ferries (old) are still procurable at \$25 but the new issue has been placed, and is still in request, at \$15. Shell Transports are enquired for locally at 43s. 6d. Indos, China and Manilas, and Douglasses are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue quiet but fairly steady at \$130, and Luxons at \$32.

MINING.—Quotations are unchanged and we have no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have weakened to \$103 at which rate shares are procurable. Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$45 and are still in request to a limited extent. Shanghai Docks after sales at Tls. 84 have eased off to Tls. 83, at which rate however there are buyers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have suffered a further severe decline, and are now quoted at Tls. 162½ sellers in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—No business in Land shares has been transacted during the week, and quotations are unchanged. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$80.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to Tls. 64, but otherwise there is no change to report in quotations for the Northern stocks. Hongkong Cottons are steady with probable sellers at \$11.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been booked at \$9½ and are in further request at the rate. Green Inland Cements have been taken off the market at \$10½, and Electrics at \$16½. There are buyers of Dairy Farms at \$19½, Steam Laundries at \$5½, and United Asbestos (ordinaries) at \$13. China-Borneos are procurable at \$10½ and China Light & Powers at \$6½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$770, buyers
National B. of China	£6	London £79.10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$6½, sellers \$9½, sales & buy.
China Provident	\$10	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Lao Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$45
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 83
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 162½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10½, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$185
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$80, sales
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$220, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	£5	Tls. 78, buyers
Union	\$100	\$750
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 119
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$14 \$2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$27½, x. div.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	{ \$26 \$21
Shell Transport Co.	£1	43/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$15, sales & buy.
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$10
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½
Wiemann Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$250, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

6th August, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$785, sellers
National of China	£6	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ } { T125 }	{ Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ion	\$100	\$780, sellers
North-China	£5	Tls. 77, buyers
Yangtze Assn.	\$60	\$185, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	{ £10 } { £1 }	{ Tls. 20½, buyers Tls. 14½, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. } & Trading { pref. }	{ £1 } { 10 }	{ £22.50, sellers £29.10, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord. } Lighter { pref. }	{ T50 } { T50 }	{ Tls. 47½, sellers Tls. 50½, sales
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 84½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sales
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 180, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$47½, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 92½, sellers
China Refining	\$100	\$182½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 } { 18/10 }	{ \$8, sellers Tls. 15½, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 119, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$90, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Weihaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100½, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 63½, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 67½, sellers
Lao Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 242½, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 113, sellers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 51½, sales
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 48, buyers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Maatschappij, &c. in Langkat	Gs 100	Tls. 552½, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 99, sales
S'hai Waterworks	£20	Tls. 39½, ex div.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$35, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 56½, buyers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£9.17.6, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$19½, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$21½, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$19, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 7½, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 80, sales
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Re- pository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
China Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 6th August, 1908 states:—The Bank Holidays on the 3rd and 4th instant practically put an end to all share business during the week, and we have not had such a slack time for a considerable period. Hardly any transactions are reported. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/4½. Banks.—No business reported. Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—No business reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. On the 30th shares changed hands for cash at Tls. 85 and Tls. 86½ for September. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. Ltd. Ever since the opening of our market on the 30th when the rate was quoted at Tls. 197½ for cash and September the market has been exceedingly weak and has suffered a severe decline. There has been almost a total absence of buying orders, whereas a great many shares are on the market for sale. Business has been done since the opening at Tls. 152½ and Tls. 190 for September but at the close there is no better price obtainable than Tls. 185 for cash and Tls. 187½ for September and even these rates are purely nominal. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$47½. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—Nothing reported. Land.—Nothing reported. Industrial.—A sale of Ewos has been made at Tls. 64½ for September. Shanghai Gas Co. shares have changed hands at Tls. 113. Maatschappij &c. in Langkat. On the 30th a transaction was reported at Tls. 551 for cash and was followed by sales at Tls. 550. At these rates shares are wanted. For September some shares are on the market at Tls. 560. Major Bros. have been dealt in at Tls. 51½ for cash. Kalumpang Rubber. A sale has taken place at Tls. 55. Miscellaneous.—No transactions are reported and rates are as appended below. Loan and Debentures.—Nothing has been done this week.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, August 17th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	222½
Credits 4 months' sight	227
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank, on demand	134
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank on demand	134
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	87
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	76
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	106
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	85½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.10
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per toal	\$57.90
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$7.46 discount.
"	10 " "	8.30 "
Hongkong	20 " "	7.20 "
"	10 " "	7.30 "

FREIGHTS.

Hankow, 29th.—Per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland), per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—

ARRIVALS.

7. Angbin, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Banca, British str., from Bombay.
7. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Kutsang, British str., from Moji.
7. Marmora, British str., from Yokohama.
7. Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
7. Strathendrick, Br. str., from New York.
7. Wakamiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
8. Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
8. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
8. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
8. Siam, Austrian str., from Moji.
8. Teau, British str., from Manila.
9. Aki Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.
9. Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
9. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
9. Huichow, British str., from Swatow.
9. Idomenus, German str., from Liverpool.
9. Knivsberg, German str., from K. C. Wan.
9. Menelaus, British str., from Shanghai.
9. Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Yokohama.
9. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
10. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
10. Kwangtai, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
10. Montrose, British str., from Keelung.
10. Netchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
10. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
10. Stantung, German str., from Bangkok.
10. Taikosan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
10. Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
10. Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
11. Antung, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
11. Foochow, British str., from Shanghai.
11. Kamo Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
11. Jeseric, British str., from New York.
11. Johanne, German str., from Swatow.
11. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
11. Phradang, German str., from Bangkok.
11. Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
11. Siam, British str., from Singapore.
12. Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
12. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
12. Derfflinger, German str., from Bremen.
12. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
12. Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Moji.
12. Mathilda Korner, German str., from Moji.
12. Nubia, British str., from Yokohama.
12. Palma, British str., from London.
12. Saxonia, German str., from Shanghai.
12. Scharnhorst, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
12. Sexta, German str., from Wakamatsu.
12. Tenyo Maru, Jap. str., from San Francisco.
12. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
13. Merapi, Dutch str., from Singapore.
13. Shansi, British str., from Shanghai.

August—

DEPARTURES.

7. Anna, Norwegian str., for Manila.
7. Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.
7. Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
7. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
7. Cronia, Russian str., for Singapore.
7. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
7. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
7. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
7. Manche, French str., for Haiphong.
7. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
7. Solstad, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
7. Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
7. Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Amoy.
7. Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
7. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
8. Anythia, British str., for Bangkok.
8. Banca, British str., for Moji.
8. Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
8. Glenfarg, British str., for Vancouver.
8. Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
8. Kiukiang, British str., for Swatow.
8. Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
8. Marmora, British str., for Europe, &c.
8. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
8. Mongolia, Am. str., for San Francisco.
8. Orestes, British str., for Liverpool.
8. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
9. Aker, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
9. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
9. Jeshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
9. Liangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
9. Sheila, British str., for Ocean Island.
9. Wakamiya Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
10. Dagny, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
11. Caravellas, French str., for Haiphong.
11. Catherine Apcar, Br. str., for Singapore.
11. Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.

11. Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
11. Haisang, British str., for Shanghai.
11. Ischia, Italian str., for Singapore.
11. Knivsberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
11. Quinta, German str., for Saigon.
11. Teau, British str., for Manila.
11. Yerimo Maru, Japanese str., for Java.
12. Antung, Norwegian str., for Takao.
12. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
12. Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
12. Idomenus, Br. str., for Keelung & Japan.
12. Ithaka, German str., for Chinkiang.
12. Kamo Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
12. Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
12. Menelaus, British str., for Singapore.
12. Montrose, British str., for Singapore.
12. Pelens, British str., for Manila.
12. Signal, German str., for Swatow.
12. Triumph, German str., for K. C. Wan.
12. Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
13. Derfflinger, German str., for Shanghai.
13. Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
13. Nubia, British str., for Singapore.
13. Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Australia.
13. Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
13. Saxonia, German str., for Singapore.
13. Scharnhorst, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
13. Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Signal*, from Hoihow, Mr Silver.
 Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Mr Thom.
 Per *Macheu*, from Bangkok, Mr Collingwood.
 Per *Teau*, from Manila, Dr. Desier, Messrs. Morrison and Schichelingk.
 Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Kobe, Messrs. H. D. Rodgers, Colin Hall, C. Fromme and A. Kempf.
 Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mrs Barenzen, Mrs Brayen, Messrs. Maas, W. S. Aller and F. Cander.
 Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Messrs. Miller, Nixon, Linville, Toomey, Balz, Jaedicher, Cook, Siniois and Alf.
 Per *Nubia*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr Fappan; from Kobe, Mrs H. Porter, infant and amah; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr & Mrs O'Sullivan; for London, Miss M. Jones; from Kobe, for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Haselwood.
 Per *Derfflinger*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Mr J. R. Redfern; from Genoa, Dr. Hans Aron, Messrs. E. Berghausen, Bruno Rosenberg and Georg Arlt; from Colombo, Messrs. J. Zeisler and J. L. Colquhoun; from Singapore, Miss Mary Ullmann, Oberinspector Krebs, Major H. Detmi Radcliffe, Messrs. Reginald E. Hoss, Holle, Thomas Akitt and Abdul Runim.
 Per *Scharnhorst*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr and Mrs Lesbirel and 3 daughters, Prince Y. Kujo and servant, and Mr K. Brandes; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Freund, H. F. Bell & family; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs L. Nolasco da Silva, child and servant, Mr and Mrs Fuhrmann, Miss E. Cameiro, Messrs. E. Bormand, A. Tipper, W. H. T. Davis & servant, M. Atkinson, W. Kinipple and F. Martin.
 Per *Tenyo Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Lieut. and Mrs Chas. M. Tozer, U.S.N., infant and amah, Capt. and Mrs F. M. Ward, Mrs C. L. Brown, Mrs A. C. Clark, Mrs Thos. Kinney and infant, Mrs N. Scott, Mrs W. Webster, Mrs E. West, Miss Webster, Rev. F. W. Clappett, Paymaster J. E. McDonald, U.S.N., Messrs. S. R. Burton, Pedro Botelho, Ewing Clappett, M. C. Chalart, Fernando Calderom, A. L. Doty, J. F. Elliott, S. Hashim, A. W. Hastings, L. Knox, F. W. Livingstone, E. Lavy, F. J. Marticorena, A. W. Palfryman, B. R. Peoples, U.S.N., Robert H. Robson, F. H. Randall, S. Rosenberg, A. M. Thomson and W. P. Weed.
 Per *Marmora*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Sir and Miss John Murray, and Mrs J. C. Peter; from Shanghai, Mrs Coggin, Lt. Col. Bruce, Messrs. V. Davies, L. Rich, J. Bresh, J. M. Remedios and W. Stratton; from Yokohama, for Penang, Mr E. F. Flanagan; for Sydney, Mr and Mrs Gollen; for London, Miss Chimura; from Kobe, for Brindisi, Dr. A. von Poehl; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Miss Hener, Dr. Hiesel, and Mr M. Kevoh; for London, Mrs Stratton & infant, Dr. N. Bilcan, Messrs. S. H. Fox and F. W. Baker.

Per *Aki Maru*, from Seattle, &c., Mr and Mrs R. E. McGruth, Mr and Mrs Suminoya, Mr and Mrs C. P. Commerman, Mrs Minami, Messrs G. Jenks, F. A. Buell, F. W. Darling, A. A. Hoover, Geo. Stewart, B. E. Vieta and P. G. Tudala.

Per *Kamo Maru*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr & Mrs G. Domingo, Miss T. Kimura, Dr. E. O. J. Eyttinge, Messrs. K. Shirabe and J. M. Simpson; for Singapore, H. E. Minister S. Yoshida, Mrs H. C. Zimmerman, Messrs. M. Hassais and S. N. Bose; for Port Said, Mr and Mrs G. Zuriger and 3 children; for Genoa, Mrs D. H. Jamel; for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs A. Ariyoshi, Mr and Mrs K. Kijima, Dr. Tennoda; for London, Mr and Mrs Y. Yamaza, Miss M. Kawamura, Messrs. K. Skikawa and N. Smart.

DEPARTED.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mrs A. Maurer-Nolte, Messrs. R. L. Sommers and Florentano.

Per *Mongolia*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs J. F. Richards, Mr and Mrs Z. G. Dunn, Mrs L. C. Rogers, Misses Rogers, A. Gault, C. Latrianeira and E. A. Freeney, Captain Matzinsin, Rear Admiral J. W. Hemphill, U.S.N., Messrs. W. H. Evans, A. Beck, G. Brulton, Y. Shilday, F. J. Fletcher, J. W. Bettens, J. E. Gennis, B. C. Ress, J. G. Scott and J. A. Pilgrim.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, for Australia, &c., Mrs H. Hazyuma, Dr. H. Aron, Capt. W. R. Rush, Messrs. G. Aril, J. R. Redform, E. Berghausen, A. Tipper, G. O. Carter, L. Joan, W. Kinipple, B. Wolfe, B. E. Freund, C. R. Sangster, J. M. Simpson, P. G. Tadela and B. Rusenberg.

Per *Derfflinger*, for Shanghai, Messrs. H. B. Hawken, A. Stohp, R. Reutter, O. J. Sanne, F. F. E. da Silva, A. Gundersen, D. Naylor, F. T. Chenn, A. J. Watson and F. L. Simons; for Nagasaki, Mr Nakagawa; for Kobe, Messrs. Tagawa, S. Hashim & H. Arie; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs C. W. Longuet, Mrs R. Kend, Messrs. L. Vincent, Th. Seggie, B. Blumenthal, L. Aef, Vogelgesang and F. H. Landsberg.

Per *Scharnhorst*, for Hamburg, &c., Mr and Mrs Böhringer, Mr and Mrs Briggs, Mr and Mrs F. Borel, Dr. and Mrs v. Fleischacker, Dr. and Mrs J. J. Zillweger, Mrs P. A. Kolhoff, Mrs Korneliusen, Misses Ganger & Swanison, Dr. Paul Bartsch, Dr. H. Trumpp, Rev. D. Gomes, Rev. A. G. Roliz, Messrs. M. L. Busch, St. C. F. Balz, J. de Chaupié, Fritz Fiedler, H. Fiedler, Antonio Maria Goncalves, Ludwig Kuttner, Kageyama, H. de Kempenaar, J. H. Maclaren and R. Pescio.

Per *Tamba Maru*, for Japan, Mr and Mrs Bryant, Mr and Mrs K. Kaidzu and infant, Mr and Mrs J. Macbeth, Miss T. Yasui, Dr. K. Saigo, Dr. K. Hashimoto, Rev. I. Midzuno, Messrs. T. Oye, S. Takenouchi, K. Matsumori, J. Kerr and D. Vickers.

Per *Kamo Maru*, for London, &c., Mr and Mrs A. Beattie, 2 children and servant, Mr and Mrs Y. Yamaza, Mr and Mrs A. Ariyoshi, Mr and Mrs K. Kijima, Mr and Mrs Zweiger and 3 children, Mrs Adams and infant, Mrs D. H. James, Mrs H. C. Zimmerman, Mrs Cammerman, Misses M. Kawamura, K. Tani and K. Shinbo, Minister Yoshida, Messrs. K. Ishikawa, T. Tsunoda, McHugh, N. Smart, Cammerman, M. Hassaie, J. E. Gibson, S. N. Bose, S. Deb, J. Ezra, Spellacy, A. Narishima, G. Matsumoto, E. Tsuda, N. Machida and M. Nagai.

Per *Kumano Maru*, for Manila, &c., Mr and Mrs F. K. Heywood, Mr and Mrs Hazanos and child, Mr and Mrs W. C. West, Mr and Mrs W. F. Smith, Mrs Moon, Mrs M. Nicholls, Mrs Noto Miyazaki, Misses Michael, Hazanos, Mabel Heard, A. Rozario, P. Rozario, W. Rozario, Butt and Suze Mukai, Master Rozario, Messrs. C. A. Dawitt, M. S. Dudley, S. G. Cutler, M. Cuyugan, M. Gachuico, F. Gachuico, J. T. Tyack Marburg, R. S. Smith, A. A. Thomson, C. L. Mann, Dalveen, K. Ohba, E. Denekamp, P. M. Kalaw, L. A. Kershaw, J. McGlade, A. Canozires, Geo. Thiesen, J. C. College, D. Russell, G. de Ocampo and L. Fischer.